



By: Lucy Spearman

JROTC Cadets Learn Leadership at SailATL

This year, SailATL hosted the North Cobb/Harrison NJROTC unit for a weeklong course in sailing basics. The course introduced cadets to sailing, water safety, and boat handling on Lake



Allatoona. For a program long run in residence at the Navy base in Jacksonville, Florida and on campus at Eckerd College, this marked the first time NJROTC brought a sailing day camp directly to its cadets — and the results spoke for themselves.

"The training was outstanding and the instructors made it fun for the cadets," said Senior Naval Science Instructor Philip Pascoe of North Cobb/Harrison High School's NJROTC program. Cadets were introduced to sailing fundamentals and, for some, their

first taste of racing, all while building skills that carry directly into their military science coursework and beyond.

Cadets in Their Own Words

"I really enjoyed my experience and learned a lot. Sail Academy taught me how important it is to work together and support the people around me. I made a lot of great memories that I know I will remember for a long time. Sail Academy helped me grow, become more confident, and appreciate the friendships I have."

— John Wagner Kline, NJROTC Cadet

"I really enjoyed the sail academy because it brought a new aspect to leadership. As a leader you don't always know everything, but it's your responsibility to work with others and learn. At the beginning I did not know how to sail, but I ended the week confident in my abilities."

— Chloe Morrison, NJROTC Commanding Officer

From the Instructor's Chair: A Conversation with SNSI Philip Pascoe

Were the training objectives achieved?

"Absolutely — the goal is to introduce our cadets to sailing and make it fun and educational. It has been several years since sailing training has been offered, so our cadets were excited and motivated to learn. Cadets were trained on the basics and were introduced to more advanced events such as racing — we really can't ask for more."

What are the most positive aspects of this training for NJROTC cadets?

"Of course, the opportunity to learn how to sail is phenomenal, but cadets also learn teamwork, crew coordination, seamanship, and leadership skills while making real-time decisions. Several of our cadets seek appointments to the Naval Academy, where sailing is part of the curriculum and the same leadership and teamwork principles, rules of the road, and seamanship can be carried on and applied to larger vessels as well."

What Parents Are Saying

"My son could not stop talking about it and loved it."

"He enjoyed every minute."

Setting a Course for Other Youth Organizations

The lessons NJROTC cadets brought home from the water aren't unique to military-focused programs. Nancy Haberland, head coach of the U.S. Naval Academy's offshore sailing team and a former Olympian, recently spoke with Scuttlebutt Sailing News about teaching skills for the military mission, reflecting on her career watching sailing shape future officers. "Sailing develops leadership, decision-making, teamwork, and resilience — qualities that are essential for future officers," Haberland told Scuttlebutt. "Whether they are navigating a storm, solving a problem at sea, or leading a crew through adversity, those experiences translate directly to leadership."

The same formula of real responsibility, real consequences, and a team depending on you is exactly what makes sailing such a natural fit for other youth organizations built around leadership and service. Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops, high school clubs, and other student groups already prioritize teamwork, character, and hands-on growth. SailATL is inviting these organizations to bring that mission out onto the water.

We're now booking group sailing experiences and badge- and requirement-based programs. If your troop, unit, or club is interested in a sailing experience of their own, we'd love to hear from you.



Interested in bringing your group to SailATL? Visit sailatl.org to learn more!

About SailATL

SailATL is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides sailing and water safety education for all ages, building skills and confidence on the water while inspiring a lifelong love of the nautical arts. Located on Lake Allatoona near Acworth, Georgia — about a 35–40 minute drive from Metro Atlanta — SailATL partners with the Atlanta Yacht Club to offer top-notch facilities, boats, and US Sailing–certified instructors to sailors of all backgrounds and experience levels.