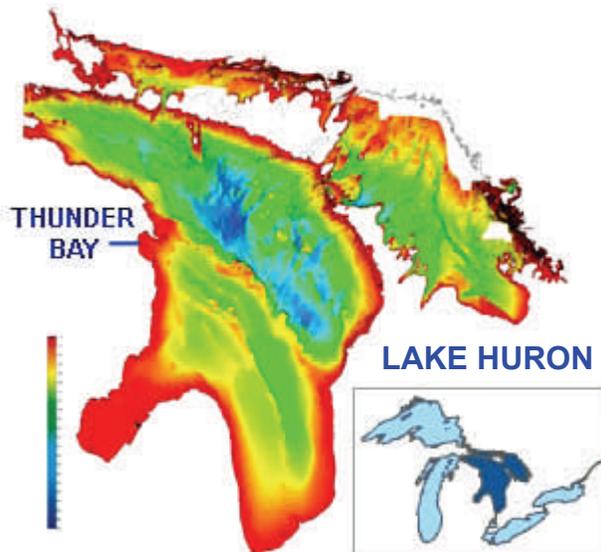


## THUNDER BAY ODYSSEY PROGRAM

# *Seafaring & Science in Thunder Bay*

### *The Program*

In 2006 an exciting new experience becomes available to some 10,000 U.S. Naval Sea Cadets throughout the United States. A unique program called **Thunder Bay Odyssey** is sponsored jointly by the Noble Odyssey Foundation, the Naval Sea Cadet Corps, and the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve, located at Alpena, Michigan on mighty Lake Huron. Each group of young Cadet seafarers will experience 10 action-packed days of nautical training, diving and scientific research at the nation's largest shipwreck preserve and the only National Marine Sanctuary in the Great Lakes. The Cadet students will learn maritime skills at sea and ashore while they also contribute to research projects involving submarine archaeology and other sciences.



Naval Sea Cadets (ages 13-17) represent the best qualities of American youth, and many Cadet graduates have moved on to leadership roles in society. Those who experience the Thunder Bay Odyssey will take home valuable maritime skills and research experience, as well as a new appreciation for the Great Lakes as a national treasure.



### *The Foundation's Role*

The Noble Odyssey Foundation, a Michigan non-profit organization established in 2003, fosters the development of youth through maritime training and shipboard experience, enhanced by direct participation in scientific research projects on the Great Lakes. Founda-

tion president, Luke Clyburn, assisted by volunteer professionals, has performed this mission with the Great Lakes Division of Sea Cadets for nearly 30 years. In numerous cruises on former U. S. Navy vessels, hundreds of these male and female Cadets learned about seamanship, engineering, science, leadership and teamwork, as they operated the ships and helped conduct scientific research projects. The Thunder Bay Odyssey Program makes that same experience available to Cadets nationwide. The Foundation's support is essen-



tial because Sea Cadet operations are not funded by the Navy, but entirely by grants or private donations. This includes the expense of operating and maintaining our training vessels, the 80-ft. *Pride of Michigan* and smaller craft. Many additional resources are required to carry out training and research missions at sea, especially on the scale of the Odyssey program.

During Odyssey sessions the *Pride of Michigan* will be based at the Marine Sanctuary facilities on Thunder Bay in Alpena, Michigan. Cadet participants may reach Alpena by commercial flights from anywhere in the U. S. The 10-day experience for each group of about 16 Cadets

covers a wide range of activities including instruction in seamanship and vessel operations offshore, SCUBA diving, small craft operations, underwater survey techniques, and scientific research. Classes and demonstrations at the Sanctuary's new Maritime Center cover topics in archaeology, geology, aquatic biology and maritime history. Cadets assist the Sanctuary and visiting scientists with research projects underway at the time. Male and female Cadets are housed in separate quarters aboard the *Pride of Michigan* or in the Sanctuary dormitory. All facilities are conveniently located on the harbor at the center of Alpena, where a full range of public services are available.



### *The Sanctuary's Role*

The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve, the 13th U. S. Marine Sanctuary, was established in 2000 by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The 448-square-mile area of Lake Huron contains some 200 historic shipwrecks and many other intriguing features of Great Lakes natural history. The wealth of natural and cultural resources in Sanctuary waters will occupy scientists and historians for many years. Sea Cadets can help staff archaeologists to map and document artifacts on the lake bottom, and to convey project information to the

public. For its part the Sanctuary facilities provide an excellent base of operations for Sea Cadet training and education.

The Maritime Center to be completed in 2006 will house museum exhibits and teaching facilities, including the latest technologies for transmitting real-time underwater videos to other educational centers nationwide. Virtual exhibits of this kind are a powerful teaching tool, especially when students observe their peers participating in underwater research and discovery. Cadets may also take an active part in public events at the Sanctuary, increasing their appeal to younger audiences.



### *The Plan*

During July and August 2005 two Cadet cruises will involve projects in the Thunder Bay Sanctuary. These are practice runs for a full schedule of 8 to 10, 10-day Odyssey sessions in 2006, when the vessel will be based all season at Alpena. Nationwide recruiting of Cadets for 2006 will take place during the coming winter. Cadet travel and per diem expenses may be supported by the Naval Sea Ca-

det Corps. All operational expenses of the Odyssey sessions will be funded by the Noble Odyssey Foundation, including four professional staff to operate the ship, train Cadets, and manage the program during the cruise sea-



### *The Benefits*

Through the Odyssey program Cadets gain skills and experience that enhance their future careers, both personally and professionally. The hands-on shipboard training instills Navy values of character, leadership, responsibility and teamwork — qualities that are reinforced by applying them to the practical work of preserving maritime history and advancing science. As the Cadets support research and public information projects, they also inspire youthful visitors to the Sanctuary, some of whom will aspire to join the Sea Cadets.

Cadets will take away from the Odyssey experience new skills and self confidence, benefiting their home organizations as well. And over the 5-year program hundreds of future leaders from many states will come to know and appreciate the wealth of natural and cultural resources found in our nation's Great Lakes.

M A R I T I M E

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