

MORE SIMILAR THAN YOU WOULD THINK

By Lieutenant Ken Hagihara, United States Navy Office of Community Outreach

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician 3rd Class Nick Kisselman, from Lakewood, Colorado, shows a child a flight suit during Riverfest, a local community event, as part of Omaha Navy Week. Omaha Navy Week is one of six signature Navy Weeks planned across America in 2014, and designed to help increase Americans' understanding of their Navy's mission, capabilities, and relevance to national security. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Dustin Good/Released)



While the men and the women of the U.S. Navy protect and defend America on the world's oceans from Navy ships, submarines and aircraft, they also bring relief to people around the world following humanitarian crises. However, much of the most rewarding work accomplished by Navy sailors takes place within their local communities.

As individuals, sailors contribute to their local communities as youth leaders, mentors, sports coaches, and community leaders. Organized groups of Navy personnel provide support to their communities by volunteering in service

projects, visiting children's hospitals, and partnering with service organizations such as Optimist International.

The U.S. Navy and Optimist International share a common goal of helping to improve the lives of young

adults in local communities across the nation. There are a number of ways in which local Optimist Clubs can team up with Navy sailors to help them boost their efforts in their local communities. For instance, Clubs can request Navy leaders to speak free of charge at official luncheons or events to provide Members with valuable information and

insight on topics such as leadership and management. In addition, by reaching out to the service-minded Navy sailors living in their local communities, Clubs may be able to identify dedicated, hard-working volunteers to participate in service projects. Clubs could even find new Club Members among these service-oriented sailors. There are a host of other Navy outreach programs that may be of interest to the Optimist community.

Optimist organizations at the National, Regional and local Club levels can benefit from the synergies that Optimist International and the U.S. Navy share in the areas of youth-centered community service. For more information on how request a Navy speaker for your next event, or for information on additional Navy outreach programs, contact Todd Martin at the Navy Office of Community Outreach, (901) 874-5805, or todd.martin@navy.mil.



Electricians Mate 2nd Class Gilbert Caine, assigned to USS Constitution, visits with a patient at the Children's Hospital and Medical Center as part of Omaha Navy Week. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class John Benson/Released)

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician 2nd Class David Ikuta, from San Jose, California, writes a message to onlookers at Henry Doorly Zoo as part of Omaha Navy Week. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Dustin Good/Released)