

Benson High School JROTC



Why I'm Optimistic About our Nation's Future

The Nebraska Veterans of Foreign Wars, Benson Post 2503 has a rich tradition of serving veterans, military families and their local communities. One of the programs they sponsor is Voice of Democracy. Voice of Democracy is an annual nationwide scholarship program for students in grades 9-12. The National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) started the Voice of Democracy Scholarship Competition in 1946.

The VFW became a national sponsor in the late 1950s and assumed sole responsibility for the program in 1961. The second year of the program, a student by the name of Charles Kuralt, the late television news broadcaster and author, was one of the winners.

The competition provides high school students (i.e. who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States and its territories) the opportunity to write and record an essay on a patriotic theme, competing for more than \$2 million in college scholarships and incentives. State winners receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. to enjoy our nation's capital and compete for \$152,000 in scholarships—first place receiving a \$30,000 scholarship.

Using the theme “Why I’m Optimistic About our Nation’s Future”, Cadet Abril Garcia-Quirino took Second Place in the local Veterans of Foreign Wars annual Voice of Democracy speech and scholarship program. She discussed how the nation has made positive changes and continues to improve equality for all people. An award presentation was held Thursday, February 6th in her honor at Benson VFW Post 2503. She was presented a check by the post commander J. Douglas Whitaker and MSG Sharron Walker.

Benson JROTC Excels at OPS Drill Competition

The purpose of Drill and Ceremony is to aid in disciplinary training by instilling habits of precision and response to the leader's orders; and to provide for the development of all cadets in the practice of commanding the Benson JROTC Corps.

Benson cadets hone that skill in class and practice before school. Their hard work paid off at the Omaha Public Schools Championship held Saturday, February 1st at Central High School. Competing in the categories of JV, Varsity, Armed Rifle and Female Drill Benson JROTC earned 3 trophies.

Female – 1st Place Commanded by Emma Diamond

Varsity – 1st Place Commanded by Liz Dietz

Rifle – 3rd Place Commanded by Taylor Feltner

Best Commander Awards also went to: Taylor Feltner and Emma Diamond

The cadets will compete Feb 21 at Northwest High school at 3:30 pm in Color Guard competition

Century Link Volunteers Needed

February
7th Creighton/wristbands
8th Luke Bryan / wristbands
10th Justin Timberlake / wristbands
14th & 15th UNO / 1 dot ea nite, banding
16th, Creighton / 4 ppl dots, banding
23rd Creighton / 4 ppl dots, banding
28th & 1st UNO / 2 ppl dots, banding

Levy Restaurants
CenturyLink Center Omaha
455 North 10th Street

If you can work
Contact LTC DeBolt at 402 980-0554

Upcoming Events

- 8 Feb All City Music Festival
- 14 Feb Spaghetti Sweetheart Dinner 5pm – 7:30 pm
- 19 Feb – Class A Uniform Inspection
- 21 Feb – OPS Color Guard Competition at NW High
- 23 Feb Pancake Breakfast VFW 7 am - Noon
- 28 March – JROTC March-a-thon
- 3 May Armed Forces Day Baseball Game TD AmeriTrade
- 3-6 June JCLC Camp Ashland (CANCELLED)
- 2-10 June D-Day Parade, France

Deciding what to do after high school graduation can be stressful, especially without having a plan.

Get a job? Hmm, without skill or experience that probably means working at a minimum wage.

Go to college? That too presents the problem of having to figure out how to pay tuition, after applying and getting accepted, of course. Working part-time, taking out student loans or a combination of the two, are options.

It is always good to have a backup plan since, if an athletic scholarship isn't in your future. The Service Academies or ROTC is an alternative although it's not for everyone.

Currently, ROTC is offered at more than 1,300 colleges and universities nationwide through either a full-fledged or partner ROTC program.

Nearly 36,000 students from all ethnicities, all walks of life, and a variety of socio-economic backgrounds have chosen to make Army ROTC part of their college experience.

To help pay for college, students in ROTC can receive either a two-, three- or four-year scholarship. Army ROTC is the nation's largest grantor of college scholarships, granting more than \$240 million each year to students throughout the country.

Beside receiving a fully paid tuition, ROTC students can earn up to \$500 per month in living expenses as well as an allowance for textbooks, classroom supplies and equipment.

Upon graduation from college, ROTC Cadets will be commissioned as second lieutenants. They receive a benefits package, a guaranteed salary, opportunities to travel worldwide, high-tech career training and immediate placement into a leadership position. Furthermore, as commissioned officers, they immediately start getting experience in their vocation that many of their college peers can only hope to gain over the coming years -- giving them an edge with corporations looking for seasoned leaders who can make an immediate impact.

As a newly commissioned officer you will be given the responsibility to take care of 40 people, their health and welfare, and making sure they complete their mission.

Students are encouraged to visit with 1SG Falcon if they are interested in attending a Military Service Academy their junior year. He has helped a number of students get an appointment, including his own son.

LTC DeBolt received a ROTC commission from Creighton University and served three years as a scholarship officer and freshman advisor. Applications open junior year 1 Feb.