

**OTS 309 Navy League Cadet Training Program
LESSON PLAN**

CTS 06 Seamanship and CTS 07 Naval Knowledge

3 periods

Introduction

OTS 309 is designed to assist officers in the understanding and implementation of the Navy League Cadet Training Program, specifically in the areas of Seamanship and Naval Knowledge. During the periods, time will be allowed for group discussions to allow candidates to share “best practices”

CTS 06 Seamanship

The aim of this subject is to teach cadets the seamanship skills necessary for sailing, and to introduce them to fancy Ropework.

The knots to be taught within the Seamanship lessons are as follows:

1. Overhand Knot
2. Reef Knot
3. Figure Eight Knot
4. Bowline
5. Half Hitch
6. Round Turn and two Half Hitches
7. Cleat Hitch
8. The Monkey’s Fist
9. The Chain Sennit
10. Square Plait
11. Portuguese Sennit

In order for the cadets to learn the above ropework, the instructor must have a strong grasp on the material. The instructor must be able to identify problems with the ropework as the cadet is completing them.

INSTRUCTOR’S NOTE:

Details on the completion of these knots are included in the Navy League Cadet Training Program Lesson Plans, CTS 06 Seamanship. Time permitting; all of the knots should be reviewed. It is recommended that the Fancy Ropework be taught to the candidates from start to finish, as they are most likely unfamiliar with some of the material. Approximately 2 periods can be dedicated to reviewing seamanship.

Evaluation

When evaluating the cadets on seamanship, there is no time limit required (within reason) If a cadet cannot complete the knot within a few minutes, more guidance and instruction may be required. It is assumed that within time and experience with the knots on a regular basis, cadets should be able to complete the ropework on their own and in an efficient manner.

The cadet is required to complete the knot and explain the purpose in order to complete the phase of training specified.

CTS 07 Naval Knowledge

The aim of this subject is to teach cadets about a wide range of significant naval topics. The goal is to relate to the cadets information regarding life at sea and naval traditions. All of these lessons contain information that can and should be taught out of the classroom. Most involve doing something physical and can easily be constructed into a highly informative and entertaining period.

The main teaching points of the Naval Knowledge section are as follows:

1. Naval Terminology
2. Phonetic Alphabet
3. 24-hour Clock
4. Watch System
5. Parts of a Ship
6. Boatswain Call
7. Signal Flags

INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE:

As with Seamanship, you may be required to review some of the material from each lesson. The Navy League Cadet Lesson Plans contain all of the information that must be presented to the cadets.

Much of the material can be learned on an individual basis (Naval Terminology, Phonetic Alphabet, Signal Flags). The material that may require some practice is the Boatswain's Call. It is important for anyone teaching the Boatswain Call to be able to properly sound the pipes. It goes without saying that a cadet cannot be expected to pipe properly if they don't know how it sounds.

Naval Terminology – The purpose of this period is to familiarize cadets with some of the terms and phrases that we may use at the corps. This is by no means a definitive list, and can be added to if desired. It may help to take the cadets for a walk around the unit to help identify some of the terms. Have cadets make up sentences and stories using as many words as possible.

Phonetic Alphabet – Once again, we want the cadets to become familiar with the “lingo”. Have them practice spelling their names, and you could also try having a spelling be using the phonetic alphabet.

24-hour Clock – This is also taught to the cadets because of its use in the daily routine of ship life. You can create all types of “friendly competitive” games in order for cadets to practice converting from one time to another.

Watch System – From this subject, cadets should understand that for everything that gets done on a ship (or at the corps), the responsibility and workload has to be shared. It all comes back to teamwork, which should be stressed throughout the lesson. Have the cadets attempt to split their class into watches and divide up a routine job such as cleaning stations.

Parts of a Ship – Cadets are taught this for the same reason they are taught terminology. In order to maintain naval tradition, we refer to our corps buildings in terms of a ship, and cadets should know how to direct someone around using the proper names.

Boatswain Call – All cadets will have to learn the 4 basic pipes on the Boatswain Call in order to be eligible for promotion. Just as the instructor would for the cadet, all candidates should have plenty of time to practice the pipes.

Signal Flags – The best way to reinforce learning with signal flags is with the actual item. If not available, flash cards or any other simple device that clearly shows the flags colours and shapes will suffice. Have cadets spell out words with the flags.

Discussion:

Have the candidates brainstorm ideas for how to reinforce training. Although most periods will not allow for a lot of practice, there are numerous periods in CTS 13 that are designed to incorporate activities that reinforce training.

Conclusion

All officers should have a good grasp of the program, including:

- a) the objectives
- b) the Cadet Training Standards and how each relates to the objectives; and
- c) testing the cadets.

These seminars are important so that officer can come together and share “best practices” which will benefit officers and cadets when it comes to instruction.