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IT'S A TWISTER! A TWISTER!



A waterspout is spotted near the water tower on the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport, Miss., July 20, 2019, during inclement weather. Waterspouts are common throughout Coastal Mississippi but rarely cause serious damage. This captured moment is a good example of why it is important to secure loose lawn items during severe weather warnings. Waterspouts, which are rotating columns of water and spray formed by a whirlwind usually occurring over the sea or other bodies of water, can occur at a moment's notice. (Courtesy Photo, Steve Gallagher, NCBC Morale, Welfare and Recreation Fitness Center director)

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Registration underway for annual Seabee Mud Run

By Ryan Labadens
NCBC Public Affairs

Registration is underway for the annual Seabee Mud Run, which is scheduled to be held onboard Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport, Miss., Sept. 21, 2019.

The five-mile run is overflowing with pools of sloppy-wet mud, not to mention obstacles that twist and turn around the Navy base.

According to Tré Adams, NCBC Gulfport Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) fitness coordinator, this is the 24th year of the Seabee Mud Run, which is open not only to military members, but to the general public as well.

As in years before, the mud run has been used to help raise money to help fund the Seabee Ball, which the base holds annually for its Sailors. A portion of the funds raised from the mud run registration fees goes toward the Seabee Ball Committee to help them with paying for the ball.

Adams noted that the Seabees on the Seabee Ball Committee design and lay out the course each year, and that each new committee that comes about tries to come up with new obstacles to spread throughout the five-mile course to make the experience new and fresh each year.

Adams mentioned that if people want to register for the mud run, they would need to go to www.navymwrgulfport.com/mud-run; registration for the mud run ends Sept. 15, 2019 (check out the website for different registration categories and pricing). Early registration prices are still in effect through Aug. 31, but after that prices jump up for all participants, so Adams suggested registering early before registration prices increase.

According to Adams, there is also a one-and-a-half-mile Family Fun Run available for 6- to 12-year olds who are accompanied by an adult. The



event is scheduled to take place from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Sept. 21, 2019, and will have vendors selling hamburgers, hot dogs, pop-sicles and other treats, and it will have a D.J. on hand to play music at the start and finish line, as well as medals for all participants and coins for the top racers.

Adams said the Seabee Mud Run is designed to be both a challenge and a fun event for all who participate.

"It's just a really good time – it's a good way to test out your physical capabilities but at the same time still have fun," said Adams.

Former A-OK now NEXTGEN SCHOLARS PROGRAM

By Brian Lamar
NCBC Public Affairs

Move over A-OK student rewards program and make way for the new and improved scholars program.

The NEXTgen Scholars Program rewards students in the military community for recognition of obtaining good grades.

"This program was developed for the Navy Exchange System to enhance the quality of life of the military family and to support student education," said Jason Bothe, the Naval Construction Battalion Center store manager.

"The cost of the program is fully funded by many of our business partners," said Bothe.

Since its inception in 1997 and through the 2017 - 2018 school year, this program has awarded a total of \$738,500 in EE-type savings bonds and monetary awards to exceptional students.

Since 2011, NEXCOM began presenting the A-OK winners with monetary awards that total \$22,000 per year to 16 randomly-selected students. Along with the monetary award, each winner receives a certificate and medallion with a ribbon displaying the phrase "In Honor of Academic Excellence."

To enter into the drawing, each eligible student must complete the entry slip for the program, which is placed in the drawing for the quarterly monetary awards.

They also receive a NEXTgen Scholars Program coupon that offers a \$10 discount off an in-store purchase of \$20 or more.

The NEXTgen Scholars Program will be announced in NEXCOM fliers, on the Navy Ex-

change website, in-store radio network and further supported by advertising throughout the school year.

Parents can pick up an entry form from customer service at the NEX. When the completed entry form is returned and the qualifying grades are verified, the NEXTgen discount card can be given to the eligible student.

The program requires eligible students, those who obtain a "B" grade average or equivalent, to bring their report card or other performance document into the NEX. Upon verification of eligibility, each student will complete an entry form and obtain a NEXTgen Scholars Program coupon.

The completed entry form enters the eligible student in a system-wide drawing for one of the four monetary awards totaling \$5,500 each quarter. The NEXTgen Scholars Program coupon will be held by the student for purchases at the NEX.

Eligibility: Students from first grade through high school meeting the following criteria:

a. Maintain a minimum of a "B" average or equivalent, as determined by their school system. If the school system utilizes a pass/fail grading system, then a "pass" grade meets eligibility requirements.

b. Eligibility can be determined by presenting a report card from the current grading period.

c. Homeschooled students are eligible with acknowledgment that the student has a "B" average or equivalent record of accomplishment.

d. Dependent children without an individual dependent identification card must be accompanied by their sponsor to submit their entry.

e. The categories for eligibility include all of the following categories of authorized patrons:

i. Dependent children of active-duty members, reservists, and military retirees

ii. Dependent children of U.S. civilian DoD employees stationed outside of CONUS, including children of NEXCOM Enterprise associates stationed outside of the CONUS

iii. Dependent children of U.S. civilian employees of firms under contract to DoD outside of the CONUS

The following are the student requirements and store procedures required to successfully implement and maintain the NEXTgen Scholars Program:

a. Each student is required to bring his or her report card or other performance document to the NEX for validation. The report card or other performance document must be from the current grading period and indicate a minimum of a "B" grade average or equivalent (pass). An area in the main store is to be designated as the validation and entry center for the program. The customer service desk or greeter station at most NEXs would be the desired location.

b. Each eligible student may only enter once each marking period and must re-enter with each qualifying report card for subsequent drawings.

g. All NEXTgen Scholars Program entries are to be submitted quarterly for drawings to be held at NEXCOM.

h. Award presentation to quarterly winners will be conducted by the local Navy Exchange in conjunction with the base commanding officer or his/her representative.