

Troop 90 is back from spending an overnight touring the USS New Jersey (BB-62). After a snowy trek south to Camden NJ, 29 Scouts and 5 Adults walked onboard the ship. After finding our sleeping quarters (triple bunk beds) and our lockers, the troop attended evening colors and safety briefings on the mess decks. After a cafeteria-style dinner, the troop was given a 2-hour guided tour through several sections of the ship including admin spaces (dentist, hospital/sickbay, post office, disbursing office, crew quarters, machine shops, officers' wardroom, captain and admiral cabins, ammunition storage/load rooms and the fire control rooms.

At 10PM, the ship fired five rounds (blanks) into the night sky. The scouts then went back to the mess decks to watch the 1960 movie "Sink the Bismarck" (a battleship movie), to take in the snack bar and to play some games. The scouts were pretty much in their racks, albeit noisy, at midnight.

This morning the scouts attended morning colors, had breakfast, did two activities (designing a battleship and ship identification) and then we went on a self-guided tour of the ship where we saw the Combat Engagement Center (where they fire the Tomahawk and Harpoon missiles from), the flag bridge, the navigation bridge, signalman's quarters, missile deck and the flight operations deck.

It was a great experience for scouts to see what tight quarters Navy sailors have to endure. It brought back a lot of memories for me. The junior officer staterooms were very much like the ones we had on my ships. I am sure the scouts, especially the youngest ones, returned tired. I was very pleased by the experience and tour the ship provided. Not sure we have any new candidates who want to join the Navy right now, but the scouts that attended were able to learn a great deal and appreciate what it takes to sail and fight a Navy ship.

Yours in scouting!
Mr. G
