

# Goldsboro High School Army JROTC Expands the Minds of Future Leaders



Goldsboro High School Army JROTC “Cougar Battalion” pose in front of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture August 26, 2017.

By Lem Gray (Goldsboro High School Army JROTC Instructor)

“Up in the morning, before day” is what 38 Goldsboro High School Army Junior Reserve’s Officer’s Training Corps (JROTC) Cadets demonstrated last Saturday, August 26, as they arrived and prepared to embark on what some would call a trip of a lifetime to Washington D.C.

This school year, Goldsboro High School underwent several changes to include the appointing of Mrs. Marcia Manning (Interim Principal) to take charge. Since being appointed, she has publically expressed her vision of students participating in more educational field trips which would expose the population to more experiences outside of Goldsboro. The Cougar JROTC Battalion Washington D.C. visit to the Smithsonian National Museum of

African American History & Culture as well as touring the National Mall and several historic memorials did expose students to what they may have read or seen through various media outlets. Additionally, the trip emphasized team building, unity and esprit de corps.

Retired Army Colonel Curtis Inman, the Senior Army Instructor of Goldsboro Army JROTC, started planning the trip during the summer break with intentions of setting a safe, positive and service learning environment for all JROTC cadets. “The intended vision for the trip was to expose our cadets to new learning opportunities while creating a positive atmosphere for them to absorb content and share experiences.” stated Col Inman. Not only was it positive, but “It was fun” according to

Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Hernandez, the highest ranking Cadet and Battalion Commander, “Seeing the history of African Americans was a positive experience for me.” Several cadets expressed the same sentiment about the trip and were moved emotionally by what they experienced during the tour. Cadet Ashonti McKnight enjoyed the exhibits especially the Artwork displayed she said, “The art displayed was my favorite part of the trip. I felt a personal connection to the abstract content of the works. It’s hard to put into words the feeling I have from this experience.”

The majority of the learning was facilitated by a fun, engaging and slightly competitive scavenger hunt game created by the Army JROTC Instructors. Cadets were arranged into five teams with one chaperone per team. Teams were then given a scavenger hunt sheet with only photos of museum artifacts on them which they had to find and write down the items’ historical significance. Cadet Aryianah was one who enjoyed the scavenger hunt “The scavenger hunt created a guided tour where we could focus our learning on specific areas of the Museum.”

Overall, the trip was a success Col Inman stated. “Students were able to reinforce their learning by experiencing our nation’s historical monuments and museums up close. This allowed our students to physically analyse, interpret, and formulate an experience that they can possess for a life time.

The Goldsboro Army JROTC Program focuses on leader and team development which enhances communication skills, conflict resolution strategies and overall good citizenship.

**JROTC Scavenger Hunt Winners:** Cadets Ty’Khira Franklin, Andreah Greene, Shayla Green, Diamond Jones, Isabella Bowman, De’Angello Gaines