



Friends & Family

**By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Michael Russell
USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) Public Affairs**

USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) Sailors hosted 2,650 guests, June 19 for a Friends and Family Day cruise off the coast of San Diego.

Friends and family members of the crew and 42 of President Theodore Roosevelt's extended family were invited aboard the ship to experience a day in the life of a Sailor firsthand.

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Sarah Braunam invited some family from Idaho to share her Navy experience.

"My favorite part of Friends and Family Day was explaining to my family what I actually do and seeing them comprehend what we do as a carrier," said Braunam. "They really enjoyed the gun shoot and seeing Air Department work together during the fire drill. Many people who aren't familiar with the military don't grasp how big an aircraft carrier is and just how many people it takes to accomplish

our mission and make this ship go. Friends and Family Day Cruise gives them a glimpse at the different jobs the Navy has."

TR's Morale, Welfare and Recreation department provided a variety of activities to include face painting, airbrush tattoos, photo booths, karaoke, a two-lane jumbo bounce slide, cinema-at-sea and yard games. There were also self-guided ship tours, museum tours, a .50-caliber machine gun demonstration, fire drill and a crash and salvage demonstration on the flight deck.

"Our MWR activities were a huge success," said Renata Sams, Fun Boss aboard Theodore Roosevelt. "I heard lots of laughter, saw tons of smiling faces and sleepy faces towards the end. After the event I got a lot of positive feedback from families, friends and our crew. MWR and I could not have pulled this off without the help of all our MWR Reps, First



Class Petty Officer Association and volunteers. I give a big thanks to all our volunteers who helped make this day amazing and memorable for our friends and families.

Lt. Cmdr. Jason Blanchard was responsible for the coordination and planning of the Friends and Family Day Cruise.

“Today was an overall success,” said Blanchard. “There was a smooth arrival of all the guests in the two hour time slot with great help by the Security division. Every Sailor and their guests were onboard by 5:30am. Morale, Welfare and Recreation Southwest catered all of the food throughout the day. Weapons department had a fantastic static display with inert bombs and also small arms. Damage Control provided a static weapons display to showcase their work to guests.”

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was explaining to my family what I actually do and seeing them comprehend what we do as a carrier,” said Braunam. “They really enjoyed the gun shoot and seeing Air department work together during the fire drill. Many people who aren’t familiar with the military don’t grasp how big an aircraft carrier is and just how many people it takes to accomplish our mission and make this ship go. Friends and Family Day Cruise gives them just a small glimpse at the different jobs the Navy has.”

In addition to friends and family of the crew, 270 members of the Theodore Roosevelt Association were also invited to join the activities. TRA is an organization dedicated to upholding the ideals of the nation’s 26th president and maintains ties with the ship and its crew. The USS Midway docents, Members of Navy League Inland Empire and the Point Loma NJROTC were also aboard.