

Press Release



Battle Ground Public Schools

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Prairie ROTC takes honors at nationals

Prairie High School's Air Force Junior ROTC was the second-best overall among 34 elite high school teams from across the country at a recent national meet.

The 16 PHS students, under the direction of Col. Pete Gray and Master Sgt. Randy Martin, also finished first in the color guard event, fourth in inspection, fifth in exhibition drill and seventh in regulation drill.

Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps units in all branches of the service from across the country participated in the invitational meet April 30 at the Ocean Civic Center in Daytona, Fla.

The PHS student leader was Jason Camp, a senior. Other members of the team were Cadets Desiree MacPherson, Wade Alfson, Julianne Calhoun, Melinda Erickson, James McKnight, Samantha O'Doherty, Sophia MacPherson, Naomi Ramos, Aubrey Suronen, Spencer Watson, Alex Costa, Jason Gerstenberger, William McKnight, Justin Plummer, and Esteban Romos.

The trip was financed by the Air Force, the PHS ROTC Boosters and the cadets' own contributions, which accounted for about half their expenses, according to Martin. Five parents also made the trip with the group.

Martin said invitations were based on showings at events earlier in the school year, such as the Northwest Drill and Rifle Conference. "This is a huge accomplishment by these talented, hard-working cadets," Martin said.

More information: Gray or Martin, 360-885-5000; <http://drill/thenationals.net>

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