TODAY'S CADETS, TOMORROW'S AEROSPACE LEADERS

A Strategic Overview of the

CIVIL AIR PATROL CADET PROGRAM

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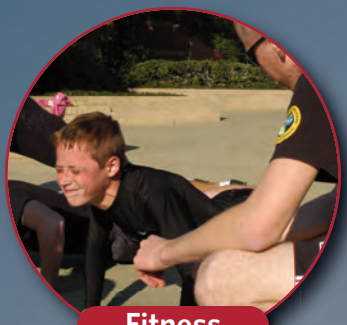
TOMORROW'S AEROSPACE LEADERS

Today's cadets are tomorrow's aerospace leaders. Through its Cadet Program, Civil Air Patrol has been transforming youth into responsible citizens since 1942.

To achieve its overall goals, the Cadet Program is organized around four main program elements:

Leadership

Aerospace



Fitness

Character

CAPP 52, *Today's Cadets, Tomorrow's Aerospace Leaders,* April 2010. Replaces *Investing in America's Youth.* Available only in small quantities to support meetings with community leaders; not for mass recruiting.

Eligibility. Cadets are aged 12 through 20, though some younger students participate if their school sponsors a squadron.

Adult Leaders. The adults who mentor the cadets are unpaid volunteers who have been fingerprinted and screened by the FBI.

Curriculum. Cadets complete tasks in each program area to earn promotions and awards. A self-paced program, cadets must study, pass written tests, exercise regularly, and demonstrate their commitment to the Core Values.

Military Commitment. Although the Air Force provides most of CAP's funding, cadets are not obligated to join the military. However, 10% of the cadets at the U.S. Air Force Academy got their start in CAP.

This booklet offers a strategic overview of cadet life, describing what the CAP Cadet Program does for youth and for America.

CAP develops **LEADERSHIP SKILLS**

Civil Air Patrol develops youth through self-paced study of the art of leadership. Cadets learn how to lead through formal classroom instruction and a laboratory of hands-on experience where they apply leadership principles to real-world challenges within the cadet corps. Through a graduated curriculum, cadets first learn to follow, then to lead small groups, and ultimately experience command and executive-level leadership, earning cadet grade and honors along the way. Topics include how to think critically, communicate effectively, make decisions, motivate and manage conflict. Self-discipline and teamwork are emphasized.

OPPORTUNITIES

Encampments: During weeklong encampments, which are usually conducted on Air Force bases, CAP exposes cadets to Air Force values and traditions. First-year cadets develop teamwork and self-confidence in what is for many their first experience away from home. Advanced cadets apply their leadership skills while serving in positions of responsibility; the cadet cadre imparts on junior cadets what is expected of them in the Air Force Auxiliary. Nearly 6,000 cadets participate annually at about 48 different locations. Trained adults supervise and mentor the cadets.

Cadet Officer School: Leadership education culminates at the academically rigorous Cadet Officer School, conducted at the Air Force's Air University. Noted scholars in the fields of leadership theory, ethics, national security and communications provide intensive instruction. Cadets learn through lectures, seminars and hands-on exercises. Approximately 120 cadets participate each summer, with scores more completing similar programs regionally or through distance learning.

OUTCOMES

Civil Air Patrol produces confident young leaders who think independently and persuade others in an atmosphere of teamwork and mutual respect. Former cadets can be found in leadership positions in the military, aerospace industry, public service and the professions.

Obstacle courses are the cadets' favorite way to put their academic study of leadership into practice.

"There is no greater feeling than assisting those in need and then watching them prevail."

Cadet JESSE CARR, Texas

"I've learned that rank doesn't determine leadership. It's really about your personal responsibility and your capabilities."

Cadet LEXI CHURCHILL, Tennessee

CAP develops **RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS**

Civil Air Patrol inspires youth to be responsible citizens. Cadets serve their communities by helping with CAP's real-world humanitarian efforts. Additionally, cadets gain an appreciation for America's role in the global community by serving as goodwill ambassadors abroad or hosting aviation-minded youth from around the world. During visits to Washington, D.C., cadets display their respect for America and commitment to public service. Responsible citizenship is the cornerstone of cadet life.

OPPORTUNITIES

Emergency Services & Humanitarian Missions: Cadets aid adult CAP volunteers in conducting search and rescue and humanitarian missions as qualified radio operators, ground team members and mission staff assistants. Cadets have been credited with locating downed aircraft, finding missing persons, and saving lives.

International Air Cadet Exchange: Cadets enlarge their understanding of distant cultures by serving as goodwill ambassadors abroad. Hundreds more youth benefit by hosting international visitors. IACE provides youth with an informed perspective on complex world issues. As cadets enter adulthood, the exchange's benefits become valuable to their nation. Each summer, roughly 80 CAP cadets exchange with 80 international cadets from a dozen or more nations. The friendships they build last a lifetime.

Civic Leadership Academy: Cadets study the federal government and explore public service careers during an unforgettable week in Washington, D.C. With a curriculum emphasizing persuasive leadership, cadets develop skills they will need to become consensus-builders in their communities. As a capstone activity, cadets visit Capitol Hill and help articulate CAP's worth to America.

OUTCOMES

For America to exploit the talents of bright, capable youth, today's young people must become good citizens willing to serve their community and contribute to something larger than themselves. CAP produces leaders who are first and foremost responsible citizens.

By training to help with CAP's real-world humanitarian missions, cadets learn to value community service.

"As a cadet, I learned that responding to an emergency is a community event. Members of the community take responsibility for helping one another."

Maj JOE CURRY, CAP, Alabama

"IACE allowed me to explore my interest in world affairs. The exchange propelled my study of political science. Today, I am a public affairs officer at the U.S. Department of State."

Maj DAVID STAPLES, CAP, Maryland

CAP develops **CHARACTER**

Civil Air Patrol emboldens youth, challenging them to live the cadet ethic of integrity and to embrace timeless values. CAP develops character in youth through formal values education and informal mentoring as moral dilemmas arise in cadets' lives. Our youth are the proud cadets of the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, eager to demonstrate their core values.

OPPORTUNITIES

Character Forums: Cadets explore contemporary ethical issues through the lens of their core values. Facilitated by CAP chaplains or other trained adults, cadets use character forums to discern their own values on topics of interest to them, such as peer pressure, relating to parents, tolerance, dating and more. Character development forums are held locally each month, reaching all 24,000 cadets.

Drug Demand Reduction: In partnership with the Air Force surgeon general, CAP helps curb the demand for drugs by reinforcing positive lifestyles. DDR funding, totaling $450,000 annually and augmented by CAP and volunteer resources, helps support cadet activities that promote a drug-free ethic. Moreover, DDR activities encourage cadets to motivate their peers to follow their lead.

Cadet Competition: Eager to show off their aerospace knowledge, physical fitness and precision on the drill field, cadet drill teams and color guards vie against one another in competitions at the state, regional and national levels. Rising to the occasion with good sportsmanship, cadets amaze spectators with their esprit de corps. The competitions are varied, but this activity is all about character. Each year, 144 cadets earn the right to compete for national honors, and about 800 more compete locally.

OUTCOMES

CAP equips cadets to think critically about the moral dimensions of problems they encounter and then to face them with courage. Surveys indicate that cadets have a lower prevalence of lifetime alcohol, tobacco, and drug use and higher protective factor scores. In other words, CAP cadets choose healthy lifestyles and honor timeless values.

Cadets think of themselves as professionals and learn that character can never be separated from leadership.

"My experiences as a CAP cadet were fundamental to my success."

Maj NICOLE MALACHOWSKI, USAF
First female Thunderbird pilot

"Memorial Day was a great experience. [We presented wreaths.] Each stood for the memory of a fallen soldier. I felt a lot of pride for my country."

Cadet JARED FLOYD, Arizona

CAP develops **A LOVE** of **AVIATION & SPACE**

Civil Air Patrol cadets experience flight firsthand through the efforts of CAP adult volunteers, aviation enthusiasts eager to share their love of flying. Often, it is through CAP that a young person receives the first flight of his or her life. Aviation education is delivered in both the classroom and the cockpit. Cadets gain an understanding of the complex forces that cause an aircraft to achieve lift and other fundamental topics such as navigation, engines and aerospace history.

OPPORTUNITIES

Orientation Flights: Through flights in powered and glider aircraft, cadets develop a love of aviation at no cost to them. Cadets help their CAP volunteer pilots preflight the aircraft, observe takeoff procedures, and while aloft actually handle the controls. During their flights, cadets learn about meteorology, navigation, and avionics. On average, cadets fly 16,000 hours in powered aircraft and 7,000 sorties in gliders each year.

Flight Academies: Having tasted the sky, advanced cadets pursue formal flight training. During powered and glider flight academies, cadets receive reasonably-priced flight instruction in an age-appropriate setting. Cadets help one another master aviation's sobering responsibilities during a thrilling week of training. Each summer, approximately 200 cadets learn to fly at CAP flight academies.

Flight and College Scholarships: Aviation is prohibitively expensive for most youth. In partnership with charitable organizations and colleges, CAP helps cadets pursue flight training and/or post-secondary education through scholarships. Over $300,000 is available annually.

OUTCOMES

By inspiring in youth a love of aviation, CAP develops tomorrow's pilots, engineers, mechanics and aerospace enthusiasts. That affection for the airplane helps fulfill the Wright brothers' century-old dream of an air-minded citizenry.

The number one reason young people choose to become cadets is a love of flying and space.

"I made my first solo flight at a CAP encampment."

Col ERIC BOE, USAF, Texas
Astronaut
In both photos below

"Everyone who wants to fly should have the opportunity."

Lt Col MARK DICKERSON, CAP, California
NASA Dryden Flight Research Center

CAP promotes **AEROSPACE CAREERS**

Civil Air Patrol introduces youth to aerospace careers. America needs today's generation of youth to become tomorrow's aviators, engineers, technicians,and entrepreneurs. CAP helps protect America's aerospace supremacy by introducing cadets to careers through summer camps, job shadowing, and mentoring opportunities with today's aero professionals.

OPPORTUNITIES

Air Force Career Explorations: Air Force leaders introduce cadets to career opportunities during weeklong familiarization courses each summer. Cadets experience firsthand the exciting aspects of a career that interests them. For example:

- Instructor pilots show cadets what it takes to fly Air Force jets;
- Space systems operators explain how they launch satellites into orbit;
- Pararescuemen train cadets in land navigation and wilderness skills; and
- Engineers teach cadets how they build airfields in remote locations.

High-Technology Career Explorations: In partnership with leading universities and businesses, cadets experience fast-growing, technology-intensive aerospace fields. Career explorations take place at week-long academies each summer. For example:

- Engineers show cadets how to design, build and test airfoils using space-age composite materials;
- Computer scientists teach cadets how to take aerial photos and use software to track satellites; and
- Aerospace technicians explain how they manufacture, assemble and maintain aircraft.

Over 1,200 cadets participate in 30 special activities annually. CAP and the USAF provide about $675,000 each year to support these programs.

OUTCOMES

The Aerospace Industries Association reports that America is facing a shortage of aerospace professionals. CAP helps youth get excited about aviation, space and technology careers. Many in today's aerospace workforce got their start in CAP. Today's cadets are helping guarantee America's continued aerospace supremacy.

At scores of summer camps and academies, cadets explore careers relating to aviation, space, and technology.

"I became interested in aviation in high school and soloed [as a CAP cadet]."

STEPHANIE WELLS, Florida
NASA Pilot & Training Officer

"I soloed as a CAP cadet. Now, I'm a flight instructor and looking forward to a career with an airline. I have CAP and its members to thank for getting me started in aviation.".

Capt CHRIS MORRIS, CAP, Missouri

CAP motivates for **ACADEMIC SUCCESS**

Civil Air Patrol offers middle and high schools an opportunity to use the Cadet Program to motivate students to succeed academically. The CAP School Program develops students' potential through aerospace, leadership and character education. The emphasis on discipline and teamwork helps students set goals for themselves and fulfill their academic potential.

OPPORTUNITIES

Character-Building Aerospace Activities: Through CAP's school programs, young people participate in fun and interesting activities, including model rocket launches, leadership academies, color guard performances, orientation flights and everything described in this booklet. Science comes alive with aerospace, and the student body is invigorated by the cadet ethic.

Role Models and Mentors: Early adolescence is a challenging time for youth. CAP provides middle school students with opportunities to interact with older, more mature teenage cadets and adult volunteers who model positive attitudes and encourage them to grow and fulfill their potential. As the cadets advance in ability, they too become mentors, helping younger students while fulfilling new leadership challenges and responsibilities along the way.

Educational Resources and Support: CAP provides participating schools with all the tools they need to administer a successful Cadet Program. Teachers or administrators who want to make the cadet experience available at their school need only contact CAP to get started.

OUTCOMES

Reports from educators show that class attendance and academic achievement have marked improvements when CAP partners with their school. Orientation flights motivate students, providing an incentive to excel academically. One educator reported that an unruly gang was displaced by a productive middle school cadet unit because the young people enjoyed belonging to a group that had a meaningful purpose.

Cadets pursue "excellence in all we do." Not surprisingly, this ethic is evident on their school report cards.

"CAP helped me with my grades. I was a straight-F student. But today I have become an almost straight-A student."

Cadet CHINAE BOND, New Mexico

"CAP has benefited me academically. [I've developed] self-discipline, study skills, and perseverance."

Cadet TINA DAVIS, Maine

"CAP was a perfect fit for our homeschooling program."

Capt BRENDA REED, Maryland
Mother of CAP's 2008 Cadet of the Year