PARENTS' GUIDE to the

CIVIL AIR PATROL CADET PROGRAM

MAY 2022



LEADERSHIP
AEROSPACE
FITNESS
CHARACTER

Esta guía está disponible en español en **GoCivilAirPatrol.com/Padres**



Cadets take a selfie with two Air Force Thunderbird pilots, who are themselves former CAP cadets.

THANK YOU for supporting your son's or daughter's membership in the Civil Air Patrol's Cadet Program.

Through their experiences as CAP cadets, young people develop into responsible citizens and become tomorrow's aerospace leaders.

CAP is the volunteer, nonprofit auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. Its three missions are to develop its cadets, educate Americans on the importance of aviation and space, and perform life-saving, humanitarian missions.

CORE VALUES

- ★ INTEGRITY
- ★ VOLUNTEER SERVICE
- ★ EXCELLENCE
- ★ RESPECT

KEY TRAITS *of* CADET LIFE

- ★ THE UNIFORM
- ★ AEROSPACE THEME
- ★ OPPORTUNITY TO LEAD
- ★ CHALLENGE
- ★ FUN

Orange County Register



Civil Air Patrol appeals to young people who set high standards and want to do something big.

A GREAT FIRST YEAR

Here's the recipe for an awesome first year.

- ❑ Attend weekly meetings regularly and strive to "rank-up."
- ❑ Attend one weekend activity each month, if available.
- ❑ Participate in an orientation flight.
- ❑ Attend the week-long encampment.
- ❑ Recruit a friend and make new friends, too.
- ❑ Remain an active cadet for at least a year, give the CAP experience a chance to impact your life.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

We help cadets become aerospace leaders, which includes their developing:

- ★ A commitment to a personal code of honor
- ★ Leadership skills for a diverse, democratic society
- ★ Enthusiasm for and knowledge about stem, aviation, or service-related careers
- ★ A habit of regular exercise

CAPP 60-12, Parents' Guide to the CAP Cadet Program, May 2022.

New since previous edition: Basic Expectations of Cadets, p. 6; Cadet Flight Plan, pp. 9-10; Making a Difference, p. 14; and other minor edits. Further, the pamphlet has been formatted for direct mail to cadets' parents and is no longer provided via the New Cadet Kit that is addressed to cadets.

OVERVIEW *of the* CADET PROGRAM

To fulfill its goal of developing young people into responsible citizens and aerospace leaders, the Cadet Program is organized around four program elements.

As cadets participate in these four elements, they advance through a series of achievements, earning honors and increased responsibilities along the way.

For more ▶ GoCivilAirPatrol.com/ranks



Cadets learn that leadership isn't about raw power but the capacity to serve others.

LEADERSHIP

CAP introduces cadets to Air Force perspectives on leadership through classroom instruction, mentoring and hands-on learning. First, cadets learn to follow, but as they progress, they learn how to lead small teams, manage projects, think independently and develop leadership skills they can use in adult life.



Where's the best place to study aerospace? The cockpit.

AEROSPACE & STEM

CAP inspires in youth a love of aviation, space and technology. Cadets study the fundamentals of aerospace science in the classroom, and experience flight first-hand in CAP aircraft. Training in cyber defense is a new frontier. At summer activities, cadets explore STEM careers.

HOW CADETS "RANK UP"

LEADERSHIP *Tasks*

Cadet Interactive or written test

Drill & Ceremonies Performance Test

Fulfill the Leadership Expectations listed on the Cadet Super Chart

AEROSPACE *Tasks*

Cadet Interactive or written test

(Aerospace requirements begin with Achievement 2)

FITNESS *Tasks*

Participate in 1 fitness activity

Beginning with the Wright Brothers Award, cadets become accountable for their performance on the Cadet Physical Fitness Test

CHARACTER *Tasks*

Participate in 1 character forum



ROUTINE *Tasks*

Maintain your membership
Participate actively in unit activities
Wear the uniform properly (after Achievement 1)
Recite the Cadet Oath from memory
Amass at least 56 days time in grade
Receive your unit commander's endorsement

Note: All tasks listed are summarized.
For more ▶ GoCivilAirPatrol.com/ranks



Being a cadet means getting yourself into shape and growing stronger.

FITNESS

CAP encourages cadets to develop a lifelong habit of regular exercise. The Cadet Program promotes fitness through calisthenics, hiking, rappelling, volleyball, competitions and other activities.



Cadets don't just honor America, they solidify their character.

CHARACTER

CAP challenges cadets to live their Core Values. Through character forums, cadets discuss ethical issues relevant to teens. Chaplains often lead the discussions, but the forums are not religious meetings. CAP also encourages cadets to promote a drug free ethic in their schools and communities.

CADET MEMBERSHIP



Cadets make friends with other teens who share their values and goals.

ANNUAL DUES

Cadets' annual dues vary by location. Additionally, cadets may be charged fees to cover meal and lodging costs at special activities.

CADET WELCOME KIT

Within 3 weeks of joining CAP, cadets receive a Welcome Kit in the mail. It includes the *New Cadet Guide,* leadership and aerospace textbooks, and other tools to help cadets get started in CAP.

For more ▶ GoCivilAirPatrol.com/newcadet

NON-DISCRIMINATION

CAP does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, gender identity or expression, disability, marital status, or military or veteran status.

For more ▶ GoCivilAirPatrol.com/nondiscrimination

UNIFORMS

The Air Force-style uniform is a symbol of the Core Values, inspiring cadets to think of themselves as young leaders.

Cadets will need a uniform to advance in the program. The suggested best practice is for each cadet to obtain a utility (camouflage) uniform as soon as possible. Your squadron may be able to provide some articles for free. The approximate cost is $150.

Upon completing Achievement 1, CAP provides cadets with a *Curry Blues Voucher* for the dress "blues" uniform. Again, some articles may be available for free locally. The approximate cost is $150, less a $100 Curry Blues Voucher.

When your cadet outgrows a uniform or leaves CAP, please turn-in the items so it other cadets might use them.

For more ▶ GoCivilAirPatrol.com/newcadet

Blue Service Uniforms



female



male

Utility Uniform: Airman Battle Uniform (ABU)



unisex

BASIC EXPECTATIONS OF CADETS

POSITIVE BEHAVIORS

1. Treat everyone with common courtesy and respect.

2. Be honest and take responsibility for your actions.

3. Wear your uniform properly.

4. Obey your officers and follow local rules at cadet events (e.g., off-limits areas, wingman rules, phone use, lights out, etc.).

5. Use the chain of command if you have questions, concerns, or ideas to share (with exceptions for #6 below).

6. Go to any adult leader (Senior) you trust, regardless of the normal chain of command, if you need to report bullying, abuse, or violence, or to discuss sensitive topics.

7. Use the Air Force command, "knock it off" at any time to have everyone stop what they are doing if you think someone could soon get hurt.

NEGATIVE BEHAVIORS

1. Don't use profanity, racial slurs, or disrespectful language.

2. Don't get into fights. Don't bully, threaten, or haze anyone.

3. Don't take property that is not yours. Don't break or mishandle equipment lent to you.

4. Don't touch someone inappropriately. Don't kiss, hug, or hold hands at CAP activities.

5. Don't bring tobacco, vapes, alcohol, marijuana (or derivatives) or illegal drugs to CAP activities.

6. Don't share, request, or post sexually suggestive text messages or images.

7. Don't bring firearms, air guns, paint guns, or any weapons to CAP (small knives may be allowed in the field).



Cadet behavior often changes for the positive. Even the youngest cadets find the inspiration to think of themselves as capable leaders.

OUR PHILOSOPHY FOR DEVELOPING YOUTH

Cadet life is a young person's opportunity to flourish. When a cadet puts on her uniform, she sees herself differently and begins to ask, Who am I? What do I stand for? To be a cadet is to take your personal growth seriously.



When young cadets rank-up, their self-confidence grows.

GOOD HABITS

Accordingly, CAP instills self-discipline, understood as the habit of following a set of Core Values to achieve goals that better yourself and the community. We hope those goals will involve aerospace careers, but if not, we're pleased if we've helped form responsible citizens.

STATUS AS YOUNG ADULTS

The cadets' seriousness of purpose distinguishes them as ***young adults, not children.*** While we remain committed to ongoing dialogue with parents, we want to see cadets – not parents – prepare their own uniforms, follow-through on commitments they make, and use the cadet chain of command to resolve their questions and concerns.

RESILIENCE

CAP is a safe place to learn. Challenge is a key aspect of cadet life, so we support cadets as they try new experiences, knowing that they may not succeed fully at first. We believe that affording cadets freedom to make mistakes builds resilience. We ask parents not to hover, but to give their cadet the space they need to grow.

HOMESICKNESS

Cadets may feel homesick during their first overnight activity. Local leaders are prepared to mentor cadets through the experience. We find it helpful if parents express confidence in the cadet's ability to succeed, and not hedge with promises of an early pickup or frequent texts and phone calls.

FAMILY & SCHOOL

Family and school obligations take priority over CAP. Cadets are required to maintain "satisfactory progress" in school, as determined by their parents. We want participation in cadet activities to be a reward for responsible behavior and good grades.

SAFETY & ADULT SUPERVISION

CAP is a safe, positive environment that uses an age-appropriate, military-style learning model to challenge young people. While cadet life is regimented, we ***do not*** tolerate any form of abusive behavior or hazing. Here are some ways we keep youth safe:

- Every CAP adult leader has been fingerprinted and passed a criminal background check.
- Every CAP adult leader has been trained in how to mentor youth in a positive way.
- Every CAP activity (with a few, rare exceptions) will be supervised by at least two CAP adult leaders.
- We structure our activities so that opportunities for isolated, one-on-one contact with cadets are minimized.
- Your local squadron will announce cadet activities via a web calendar, so you can know what events are upcoming.
- You'll be given written information each time a special activity is held, and be asked to sign a permission slip.
- If an adult leader is transporting a cadet, at least one other person will be in the vehicle.
- While older, experienced cadets act as servant-leaders over younger, new-comer cadets, they always do so under adult supervision.
- Each cadet has a "wingman" for peer-to-peer support and safety.
- We teach cadets to look out for their wingman's safety and we tell cadets that if they think inappropriate behavior is occurring, they are to tell any trusted adult, without fear of retaliation.

For more ▶ GoCivilAirPatrol.com/cadetprotect

"I'm a detective who specializes in crimes against children. CAP's safety training is well-researched and put together. The issues of grooming and how it takes place are spot on. I'm proud of how seriously CAP takes this issue."

Capt Jim Schilling, CAP
Minnesota

SPECIAL NEEDS & INCLUSION

If your cadet has a disability or other special need, please share that with the local leaders. We are committed to doing everything we reasonably can to help each cadet succeed. We're especially proud of cadets who work hard and lead by example despite their having a learning or physical disability. There's no reason to hide your cadet's special needs. **For more ▶** GoCivilAirPatrol.com/specialneeds



CADET FLIGHT PLAN *for* AVIATION CAREERS



1st CADET YEAR*

1. Enter the CAP Cadet Program between ages 12 and 18.

2. Learn aerospace basics at weekly squadron meetings. Ask which STEM kits are available.

3. Take the controls during your first orientation flight. O-flights are always free to cadets.

4. Read the cadet aerospace and leadership texts. Complete the Cadet Interactive modules and rank-up. Try to earn the Wright Brothers Award by the end of your first cadet year.

5. Go to encampment and interact with the Air Force. Apply for Cadet Encampment Assistance Program (CEAP, say "seep") funds to get help with tuition and uniforms, if needed.

2nd CADET YEAR

6. Attend a cadet flight academy and fly solo. Apply for the Take-Off Program to get help with expenses, if needed.

7. Explore an aviation or STEM career at a National Cadet Special Activity. Apply for Cadet Lift to get help with expenses, if needed. Try to earn the Mitchell Award by the end of your second cadet year.



"We're licensed pilots now, thanks, CAP!"

Cadet Daniel Barber
Cadet Sarah Kadans





3rd CADET YEAR & BEYOND

8. Compete for the elite Cadet Wings program, which covers nearly all expenses leading to a Private Pilot license. You'll want to have earned the Mitchell Award to be competitive.

9. Compete for ROTC and Service Academy appointments. Apply for CAP scholarships. Check out the University Aviation Association, uaa.aero, for help in your college search. Or, enlist in the USAF at the grade of Airman First Class.

10. Enter the aviation profession and give back to tomorrow's cadets.

★ Cadet year terminology is for illustration purposes only. By law, the minimum age for solo flight in a glider is 14, for powered aircraft, 16.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: CadetInvest

CadetInvest connects cadets, their aspirations, and funding partners. Financial assistance empowers cadets to pursue their goals. Some CadetInvest opportunities include:

CADET ENCAMPENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CEAP)

For cadets in their first year or beyond, "Seep" helps disadvantaged cadets attend an encampment by assisting with tuition and uniform costs.

CADET LIFT

For cadets in their second year or beyond, "Lift" helps disadvantaged cadets with tuition and travel costs for a 1-week career exploration academy.

TAKE-OFF PROGRAM

For cadets in their second year or beyond, "Top" helps cadets attend a 1-week CAP flight academy, where they could possibly solo in a glider or single-engine aircraft.

CADET WINGS

For cadets in their second year or beyond, "Wings" is an ultra-competitive, merit-based program that covers nearly all expenses to transform them into licensed private pilots.

For details please visit
GoCivilAirPatrol.com/CadetInvest

ENCAMPMENT

The highlight of a cadet's first year is the encampment, a week-long, highly-regimented immersion into all aspects of cadet life. Cadets develop leadership skills, explore STEM and military careers, challenge themselves on obstacle courses, and have a lot of fun.

We want every cadet to attend, so please mark your calendar now (please visit the link below). Tuition averages $150 to $300. Financial aid is available through CEAP (see page 10).

For more ▶ GoCivilAirPatrol.com/encampment



(Right) Seeing military aircraft up close makes encampment unlike any other youth activity.



Teenaged cadets bravely face new challenges, and learn how to take risks safely and responsibly.

FLYING

Many cadets receive their first flight in an airplane, thanks to CAP.



CAP's volunteer pilots share their love of flying with cadets. Through orientation flights in powered aircraft and gliders, cadets experience flight first-hand.

While aloft, cadets handle the controls during the noncritical stages of the flight. CAP's pilots are licensed by the FAA, follow a syllabus for each flight, and ensure the flight is conducted safely.

Cadets may also receive orientation flights in military aircraft. Orientation flights are free to cadets.

For more ▶ GoCivilAirPatrol.com/flying

THE FUTURE

To help cadets plan for an exciting future, CAP offers college and flight scholarships.

And, while they are not obligated to join the military, cadets who earn the Mitchell Award can enter the Air Force at an advanced pay grade (E-3).

The service academies and ROTC also look favorably on CAP experience. About 8% of Air Force Academy cadets are former CAP cadets, and the Academy's Preparatory School sets aside at least one slot for CAP cadets annually.

For more ▶ GoCivilAirPatrol.com/CadetInvest



Cadets develop self-discipline that translates into academic success. 85% earn B's or better at school.

AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

Parents are welcome to observe all CAP activities. There are no secret meetings.

ADDRESSING CONCERNS

As a parent, any time you have a question or concern, please contact the local squadron commander. CAP takes parents' concerns very seriously.

If local leaders are unable to resolve an issue to your satisfaction, your wing (state) leaders will gladly help.

ADULT MEMBERSHIP

CAP can always use more adult volunteers. If you are willing to serve occasionally as a chaperone or driver, consider joining as a *Cadet Sponsor Member.* If you are interested in participating more fully in CAP's missions, consider joining as a *Senior Member.*

PARENTS' COMMITTEE

Parents can support the cadets in their local squadron without officially joining CAP by serving on a parents' committee. Some ways parents can help include:

- asking area businesses to make financial or in-kind donations
- organizing a carpool system
- planning an awards night or pot luck dinner
- helping the squadron connect with local civic groups
- serving as a guest speaker
- spreading the news about CAP and helping recruit new members.

For more ▶ GoCivilAirPatrol.com/parents



CAP is a great activity for the whole family. Many cadets have recruited their parents, with Mom or Dad continuing to volunteer after the kids have grown.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The CAP Cadet Program outperforms the average youth-serving organization in delivering positive developmental outcomes.*

Positive Youth Development Outcomes	CAP score vs. average program
"I learned about the challenges of being a leader"	124%
"I think about who I am and my future"	121%
"I learned how to control my temper and manage stress"	133%
"I made friends and learned about helping others"	115%

Cadet Academic Performance

56% Straight A students

85% Earn As & Bs

Cadets' Career Interests

81% military service

76% aviation

65% STEM: science, technology, engineering, maths

Your gift will make the world better, kinder, brighter.

Every dollar you give will assist our work in transforming today's cadets into tomorrow's aerospace leaders. CAP is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Gifts may be tax deductible. GoCivilAirPatrol.com/Giving



* In 2021, CAP conducted a 360° outcomes evaluation using the *Youth Experiences Survey 2.0* (Hansen & Larson, 2005). CAP's performance on YES 2.0 is benchmarked against youth-serving organizations reported by *Personality & Individual Differences, 54* (2013), and the *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology, 42* (2016). Cadet academic performance was validated by a survey of cadets' parents in 2022.

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TO THE PARENTS OR GUARDIANS OF