

1.4 Parent's Introduction

Key Question: What policies are in place to keep cadets safe and communicate with families?

Parents need an introduction to CAP too, if the units hope to develop a partnership with moms and dads. This presentation outlines basic information about the CAP Cadet Program. The lesson outline allows squadrons many opportunities to customize the talk and discuss local programs and policies.

Duration

30 min

Suggested Instructor

The unit commander or deputy should lead this briefing; this is not a cadet activity

Objectives

1. Describe the goals of the Cadet Program
2. Describe what CAP does to protect cadets' safety and well-being at CAP events
3. Outline the membership and financial requirements involved in joining CAP
4. Describe ways that parents and CAP leaders can partner together

Materials Needed

- PowerPoint slides are available for this presentation.
- It is recommended that the presentation begin with a short video, so a projector, TV or a computer with good speakers is needed.
- Finally, the presenter may want to provide copies of the Parents' Guide to CAP.

LESSON OUTLINE

Some of the topics below are also covered during Activity 1.1, "Exciting Opportunities." Therefore, the presenter may want to skip some of the sections below, depending on whether the parents participated in the earlier session.

The topics below are outlined in broad strokes. For detailed talking points, see the Parents' Guide to the CAP Cadet Program.

1. Introduction

2 min

Present any short video that introduces CAP to a general audience. (see CAP YouTube channel)

2. Program Elements

2 min

Describe the four elements of the Cadet Program: leadership, aerospace, fitness and character. All cadet programming will relate to at least one of these program elements.

3. Adult Supervision

2 min

Emphasize that CAP does not tolerate physical, sexual, or emotional abuse. All adults are screened and follow comprehensive cadet protection and safety guidelines.

4. Cadet Activities

3 min

Explain what activities are available to cadets. Focus on local activities open to new cadets. Describe local activities or programs such as airshows, color guard, CyberPatriot, or community service.

5. Flying

2 min

Emphasize that all pilots are licensed, and safety is our top priority. Orientation flights are fun and educational but are not part of a formal training program. Cadets who want to become pilots themselves will have opportunities to pursue flight training as they advance, but it's not required or available to every cadet.

6. Advancement

2 min

Keep the discussion at a high level and briefly mention the cadet grade structure and that promotions require cadets to complete some tasks outside of the squadron meeting. In addition to the promotion tasks, cadets will demonstrate leadership expectations that change and develop as they advance through the program. Tell parents that cadets will receive detailed guidance on how they can progress.

7. Bright Futures

2 min

Describe how our Core Values prepare young people for responsible citizenship.

8. Membership

5 min

Begin by discussing membership eligibility, to include any local policies such as prospective cadets having to attend a few meetings before joining. Explain what it costs to join CAP, based on local dues and fees. Explain how cadets obtain uniforms. Mention that as a 501(c)(3) organization, CAP-related expenses may be tax deductible.

9. Partnering with Parents

2 min

Discuss any local practices your unit follows to keep parents informed about cadet events, such as where to find the online unit calendar. If the unit has a parent's committee, describe how they support the squadron. Emphasize that local leaders will be glad to meet with parents to discuss any concerns.

10. Final Thoughts

Invite parents to ask questions.