



2022 National Award Winners

CAP's K-6th grade [Aerospace Connection in Education \(ACE\) program](#) began in 2008 and has impacted over half a million students since its inception. During the 2021-2022 AY alone, 85,000 students were involved! Each year, those who are nominated for their stellar ACE work are considered for awards. This year, we also have awards for the [ACE Plus Adopt program](#) as a component of the ACE program which brings in grades 5-8. The names found below are the award winners for 2022. Each person will receive a nice award plaque and a grant/check courtesy of the [Air and Space Forces Association Education Council](#).

Click on each blue award, below, for each winner's story!

National ACE School of the Year: Bluff Park Elementary School Hoover, AL

National ACE Sustained Excellence Awardee: Mrs. Geri Evans

ACE School Coordinator and Science Lab/STEAM Teacher

~ Principal, Mrs. Ami Weems

Site of the 2022-2023 National ACE Lift-off Event!

National ACE Student of the Year: Ayden Leal

Creekside Elementary School Livingston, TX

~ Mrs. Melanie Justice, Teacher

National ACE Teacher of the Year: Ms Lisa Medlyn

Arts Academy at Estrella Mountain Tolleson, AZ

National ACE "Special" Science Teacher of the Year: Mrs. Mary Janet Bryant

The HIVE Special School Bowling Green, KY

National ACE Plus Adopt Collaborative Teacher and Squadron Team of the Year:

Mrs. Elise Neill, Fifth & Sixth Grade Teacher, Cornell Elementary Coraopolis, PA, and

Maj Randy Lentz, AE Officer, NER-PA-133 Golden Triangle Composite Squadron 603

National ACE Plus Adopt Spirit Award:

**Ms Lindsay Ames, 5th Grade Teacher, Tates Creek Elementary Lexington, KY, and
GLR-KY-001, Kentucky Wing Headquarters, CMSgt Cory Felts, Director of AE (at the time of
the program)**

How are our ACE Awards determined?

First, we accept nominations for our major ACE awards of National Teacher, School, and Student of the Year for the Aerospace Connections in Education (ACE) program.

- We have done the same for the ACE Plus Adopt program award submissions to select the Adopt Team of the Year.

For other ACE awards, we work as a team at the CAP National HQ in Montgomery, AL, to decide which school and/or teacher has gone above and beyond; which school coordinator has worked tirelessly to ensure all students are involved in the ACE program; and which individuals have uniquely stood out (and have kept us updated on what they are doing via photos and communications) and deserve a special recognition for the year. The special ACE awards are then selected.

- We also selected an Adopt Spirit Team awardee this year.

Please join us again for the 2022-2023 ACE program and keep us informed of all YOU are doing with your ACE students! Registration opens August 1st!

Points of Pride for 2021-2022

Even during a continued year of varied COVID restrictions, there were over 85,000 ACE students from 457 schools in 46 states + Europe (DoD). In addition to a variety of school types, there were Boys and Girls Clubs, after-school programs, museums and libraries, and summer camps all using the ACE program. Proudly, we had a large group of ACE Plus Adopt teams this year, as well. (See list by state [HERE.](#))

- 98% educators view ACE as fitting well with standards; supporting STEM education; a valuable use of time; and a positive influence on behavior and learning.
- 90% of ACE schools are Title 1 Schools, therefore allowing CAP to reach a broad range of ethnicities and socio-economic demographics.

The new [ACE Plus Adopt program](#) expanded in its second year to have CAP squadrons connect with teachers to help teach the ACE lessons, share information about the CAP cadet program, coordinate field trips, and teach about a variety of STEM careers. Included in this year's ACE Plus Adopt program was **7 Regions, 22 wings, 48 teachers, and 3,518 students.**

- - See the [CAP.NEWS "Adopt" launch article.](#)
- See [CAP Volunteer Spring '21 article](#) about the "Adopt" program.

Through the Years

Since 2008 inception, over 500,000 ACE students in 50 states + DC & PR + Europe (DoD)

- ***The [Air and Space Forces Association](#) has been a steady partner, providing certificates, shirts, and award grants!***

- To get a perspective of the program, see the [10-year ACE anniversary story](#) in CAP's Volunteer Magazine.



Registration opens August 1st, 2022. We hope to see YOU as a FACE of ACE!