



2023 National Award Winners

CAP's K-6th grade [Aerospace Connection in Education \(ACE\) program](#) began in 2008 and has impacted over 600,000 students since its inception. During the 2022-2023 AY alone, 97,911 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 CAP squadron mentors for grades 5-8. The names found below are the award winners for 2023. Each person will receive an award plaque and a grant award courtesy of the [Air & Space Forces Association Education Council](#).

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

[National ACE School of the Year: Goldsboro Elementary Magnet School Sanford, FL](#)

[National ACE Teacher of the Year: Mr. Robert Wakeland of Goldsboro School](#)

ACE School Coordinator and Flight & Space STEM Teacher: Mr. Wakelyn

~ Principal, Dr. Chris Mulholland

Site of the 2023-2024 National ACE Lift-off Event!

[National ACE Student of the Year: Parker Van Sloten](#)

Fellowship Baptist Academy Carson City, MI ~ Mrs. Tammy Clingenpeel, Teacher

[National ACE Sustained Excellence Award: Mrs. Amy Kranich](#)

Kenwood Elementary School Ft Walton Beach, FL

[National ACE Plus Adopt Collaborative Squadron and School Team of the Year:](#)

[MAR-NC-070 Dan River Composite Squadron and](#)

[Rockingham County Middle School](#)

[Capt Brent Wooters, Dan River Squadron Commander](#)

[Rockingham Science Teachers: Ms Elessa Clegg, 6th Grade & Mrs. Victoria Ore, 7th Grade](#)

North Carolina CAP Wing Rockingham County Schools Reidsville, NC

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.

For other ACE awards, we work as a team at the CAP National HQ in Montgomery, AL, to identify which school and/or teacher has gone above and beyond and uniquely stood out via their photos and/or communications sent to us, and their social media posts which tagged @CAPaerospace so we were aware of their excellent work. Any special ACE awards are then selected, to include the ACE Plus Adopt program award.

Please join us again for the 2023-2024 ACE program and keep us informed of all YOU are doing with your ACE students! Remember to tag @CAPaerospace on any social media posts about your CAP work! Registration opens August 1st!

Points of Pride for 2022-2023

Even during a continued year of varied COVID-related issues, there were almost 98,000 ACE students from 521 schools in 46 states + Europe (DoD). In addition to a variety of school types, there were Boys and Girls Clubs, after-school programs, museums, 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 ACE 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.
- 78% 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: Squadron-Classroom Adopt program](#) expanded in its third 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 **8 Regions, 19 wings, 28 teachers, and 2,228 students**. (See the outstanding ACE Plus award winner above.)

Through the Years

Since 2008 inception: over 600,000 ACE students in 50 states + DC & PR + Europe (DoD)

- *The [Air & Space Forces Association](#) has been a steady partner, providing certificates, shirts, and award grants! CAP appreciates their continued support.*
- To get a perspective of the overall ACE program, see the [10-year ACE anniversary story](#) in CAP's 2019 Volunteer Magazine.



Registration opens August 1st each year. We hope to see YOU as a FACE of ACE next academic year!