

2024 National Conference Learning Session Descriptions

Aerospace Education

Don't Let AE Be an Obstacle!

Presenters: Sue Mercer, M.Ed, AE Program Manager & Shayla Freeman, Ed.D, Director of Aerospace Education

Is AE an obstacle for you and your squadron? Need new ways to implement STEM kits into your AE night? Join us for a hands-on session where we will show you various ways to incorporate STEM kits to get your cadets engaged and excited about STEM!

Navigating the Future of Aerospace Education

Presenter: Shayla Freeman, Ed.D, Director of Aerospace Education

Find out what's happening in Aerospace Education. From AE programs you are already familiar with to new additions on the horizon. Come meet the HQ CAP AE staff and learn more about the amazing programs we offer in AE.

Solar Eclipses and Beyond: The Impact of CAP/NASA Citizen Science Missions

Presenter: Capt. Shannon Babb, CAP, Civil Air Patrol Solar Eclipse Mission Director

The CAP Solar Eclipse Mission was one of the largest in Civil Air Patrol history. Over the course of 6.5 hours, over 3,400 CAP members and 34,000 AEM classroom participants in all 52 wings worked together to capture the effect of a solar eclipse on weather and VHF radio communications. Come learn about the 5-year planning process it took to create a mission of this scale, hear about the scientific discoveries made with the data CAP members collected, and be the first to hear the details of the next CAP/NASA Citizen Science Mission!

Cadet Programs

Soaring Beyond Challenges: Cadet Q&A with Amelia Earhart

Presenter: Amelia Rose Earhart, Record-breaking pilot & author

Cadets, join us as Amelia Rose Earhart shares a pilot's perspective on navigating life's turbulence. Discover how to leverage 360-degree thinking, accurate forecasting, pre-flight checklists, and an understanding of human behavior to thrive both in and out of the cockpit. This session includes ample time for an engaging Q&A with Amelia.

An Alternative Cadet Squadron Model: Weekday Mornings

Presenter: Col. Brenda Reed, CAP, Commander, Maryland Wing

Learn how the weekday morning meeting model can help cadets excel, help your wing to grow, and help make connections to local communities.

Explore the option of having your cadets meet in the mornings on a weekday. Ideal for cadets who are homeschooled, college-age, or otherwise available during the day. Learn how Maryland Wing's Granite Cadet Squadron successfully pioneered this meeting model, adapting to the needs of cadets and their families. Learn how daytime offerings provide additional learning time and opportunities with local military units and communities while freeing up valued family time during nights and weekends. Talk with the commander who chartered the unit and tested unique program elements in the squadron's search for excellence. Discover how you can increase recruitment to an untapped population.

National Cadet Advisory Council Town Hall

Presenters: National Cadet Advisory Council Team

Join the National Cadet Advisory Council for an engaging session to learn what they have been working on this term and provide feedback or ask questions. After receiving updates regarding NCAC projects, we would like to hear what items you think need to be addressed and answer any questions you might have regarding CAC and the program as a whole.

eServices for Cadet Programs Officers

Presenter: Tammy Hallihan, Cadet Programs Support Services Manager

This is the place to be for all things Cadet Programs and eServices! This session will guide Cadet Programs Officers through eServices features applicable to composite and cadet units, including integrating the new Registration Zone and CAP Health modules into your unit and wing operations. Attendees will leave this session with a quick reference list of common how-to's and confidence in eServices to support their units and better help others.

Instruct and Present in an Engaging Way – Train the Trainer

Presenter: AJ Flateau

Discover how you can make your instructions and presentations engaging by learning from a veteran teacher turned CAP employee. This Learning Session will model the idea of 'Practice What You Teach' by involving participants in various techniques used in a classroom. Learn how to use these highly adaptable techniques and apply them to your own situations. By the end, participants will have the tools to showcase, share, and demonstrate within their Squadron and Wings.

Cadet Programs News and Innovations

Presenters: Curt Lafond, Director of Cadet Programs & Cadet Programs Team

What's new and on the horizon for the cadet program? Hear from the team about recent updates in Cadet Programs and what they're working on next to keep cadets learning and engaged. More than just the "what," get the "why" behind what's going on and let your voice be heard.

Implementing Cadet-to-Cadet Abuse prevention Strategies in CAP's Evolving Environment

Presenter: Cadet Programs Team

Join Cadet Programs for an intensive session on fostering a culture of safety and well-being in our local units, encampments, NCSAs, and more, through a cadet-to-cadet abuse prevention lens. Peer-to-Peer abuse is prevalent in youth development settings, with 1-in-3 reported sexual abuse cases occurring between minors. Cadet-to-cadet abuse presents a unique context in which traditional abuse prevention strategies fall short, and distinguishing inappropriate versus harmful behaviors may be difficult. This session will highlight current trends and challenges related to cadet-to-cadet abuse situations, paired with key considerations from evidence-based prevention practices and strategies. Practical implementation strategies will be discussed through a series of contextual examples. This session will integrate the knowledge and passion already reflected in our communities with evidence-based practices, as we work towards a common goal: transforming youth and serving communities.

Supporting Cadet Flight Training Best Practices with Cadet Programs and Operations

Presenters: Kathrine Schmidt, Cadet Programs Program Manager & Joe Keller, Sr. Program Manager, Stan/Eval

Ready for Takeoff? Explore the Skies with CAP Operations and Cadet Programs Teams!

Flight Training with CAP offers you the opportunity to soar high and fulfill your dreams of becoming a skilled pilot. Whether you're aiming for a career in aviation or have your eyes on military service, we're here to guide you. This session will be led by seasoned aviation professionals and certified flight instructors that both fill the roles of volunteers and National Staff. With our unwavering commitment to excellence and safety, we'll help you reach new heights and make your aviation dreams a reality in CAP! This session is for cadets interested in flight training and the adult operations roles that support them.

Seeing the Struggling Cadet

Presenters: Capt. Sherry White, CAP, Michigan Wing ES Training Officer, Group Cadet Programs Officer & Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Mark Bell, CAP, Michigan Wing Chaplain

We are tasked with training tomorrow's aerospace leaders. We work closely with our cadets; we form friendships and bonds as mentors and educators. Do we know our cadets well enough to notice when they are struggling? Do we step up when a seasoned cadet has become withdrawn, or a new cadet enters with the trauma already in place? This open discussion will offer suggestions and potential solutions that will allow us to be more effective leaders when it matters most.

Ambassadors with Wings: Flying Overseas on the International Air Cadet Exchange

Presenters: Lt. Col. Randy Petyak, CAP, National Director, IACE & Lt. Col. Laurie Watson, CAP, IACE Staff

Learn about the 2025 International Air Cadet Exchange (IACE). CAP represents the United States on an international exchange featuring more than a dozen foreign countries! Cadets and Senior Members visit other countries and CAP regions host international cadets, all while fostering international understanding, goodwill, and leadership among young people around the world who share a love for aviation. It's an experience no member ever forgets, the friendships you build will last a lifetime.

Financial Management

FM – The What and Why of CAP Financial Management

Presenters: Stacy Jackson, CAP Chief Financial Officer & Keith Barnhart, CAP Deputy Chief Financial Officer

Come get an update on new FM initiatives and requirements and learn why we have the requirements we do. Get some basics on how FM works at CAP. We will end the session with an opportunity for attendees to ask questions.

Innovation

Charging the Innovation Battery

Presenter: Maj. Marybeth Slocumb, CAP

Learn how CAP's innovation program will be expanding to incorporate wings and regions. Innovation is not something done by other people, it should be practiced by at all levels of the organization. In this session we will cover how to get involved with innovation at your level, innovation training opportunities, and how to charge your innovation battery.

Chaplain Corps

Strategies for Resilience – From a “Survivor”

Presenter: Maj. Brenda Morrissey, CAP, Chaplain Support Specialist/Peer Support & CISM Coordinator

Stress and conflict exist and can impact our performance and behavior inside and outside the “workplace”. Building resilience to these requires some conscious steps toward our own

wellness and safety. This workshop will assist participants with recognizing the impact of stress, identifying stress in themselves and others, and how to build resilience even in times of trouble. The workshop will explore resilience strategies, assist participants in personalizing them, and will explore the power of building a support network because no one is truly alone.

The Importance of Mentoring our Chaplain Corps Members

Presenters: Chaplain (Col.) Linda Puglsey, CAP, Chief of Chaplain Corps & Lt. Col. Shirley Rodriguez, CAP, Chaplain Corps Staff

The CAP Chaplain Corps is integral to CAP accomplishing its missions. More than offering invocations and conducting character development lessons, CAP chaplains, Chaplain Corps Assistants and Character Development Officers provide support, unbiased ears, critical incident stress counseling, mentorship, and a helping hand to commanders and members at all levels and of all ages.

Just as they mentor however, they too want to be mentored... not just by fellow chaplains but by their commanders, staff officers, and their fellow members. In this session, effective mentoring of CAP Chaplain Corps members will be discussed. You will take away proven mentoring techniques and tools for success.

Emergency Services

Professional Development in Emergency Services – National Emergency Services Academy – Mobile Training Team

Presenters: Lt. Col. Robert Ditch, CAP, Ed.D, Director, NESAs-MTT, Chief of Staff, Wyoming Wing, Col. Carol Lynn, CAP, NESAs-MTT Staff, & Col. Jack Ozer, CAP, NER & MAR Emergency Services Training Officer

This session will introduce attendees to the various curriculums and academic deliveries provided by Civil Air Patrol's award winning and nationally recognized National Emergency Services Academy - Mobile Training Team. Focus will include courses delivered, means for requesting deliveries and any constraints learned from previous course fielding. It will also include enrollment processes for attending FEMA and other academic programs across the nation.

Operation Pulse-Lift – CAP’s Largest/Longest Humanitarian Mission

Presenter: Maj. Margot Myers, CAP, Assistant National Public Affairs Officer

Operation Pulse Lift is Civil Air Patrol's largest and longest on-going Emergency Services mission since World War II and the organization's largest humanitarian mission in its 82-year history. Eight times more lives have been saved by Civil Air Patrol's Blood Donor Center events, individual member blood donations, and blood transports than all other combined missions in Civil Air Patrol and First Air Force's history. Operating from 60 locations across the nation (including Alaska and Hawaii) and overseas, over 5,000 members have both personified and operationalized Civil Air Patrol's mission of "Serving America's Communities, Saving (over 100,000) Lives, and Shaping Futures. It is Civil Air Patrol's "All-America" mission - whose motto says it all, "And the beat goes on."

Professional Development in Emergency Services – Certified Emergency Manager (Qualifies for ES credit)

Presenters: Lt. Col. Robert Ditch, CAP, Ed.D, Director, NESAMTT, Chief of Staff, Wyoming Wing

Since 1 December 1941, CAP became the fifth member of the White House - Office of Emergency Management, it has led the nation; now the oldest Emergency Management organization in the United States. Doing so, CAP has striven for sustained excellence and professionalism within the full spectrum of Emergency Services. This has not been shown more than its affiliation and certification support to the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM). This session will explain CAP's relationship to IAEM and its Memorandum of Understanding to both support both professional certification and affiliation between both national Emergency Management leaders. More importantly it will explain the affiliation and professional development process, through certifications, in the field of Emergency Management.

Operations

Clue Awareness

Presenter: Capt. Sherry White, CAP, Michigan Wing ES Training Officer & Group Cadet Programs Officer

Can you find a lost person or identify the area where the aircraft entered the tree line upon an unscheduled forced landing? Do you know the difference between a good clue and a red herring? Can you prosecute a clue to its proper conclusion? This hands-on exercise will open the door to successful clue identification and prosecution allowing the intel team to make informed decisions while designating the search areas.

What's New in Operations?

Presenters: Ron Olienyk, Director of Operations & CAP Operations Team Members

The national leadership in operations will provide an update for the members attending.

National Communications Program Annual Update

Presenter: Alan Artis, C2 Communications Program Manager

Come learn about the latest in the CAP radio communications program. Staff from the National Technology Center will discuss trends, news and changes to the program along. A Q&A forum will be held at the briefing to answer questions.

TAK for Operational Awareness

Presenter: Alan Artis, C2 Communications Program Manager

The National Technology Center is now providing support for TAK (Team Awareness Kit) software in CAP operations. Learn about how this software can be used in a wide variety of field operations. Participants will be able to work with the software in real time and see how it is being used to support the 2024 National Conference.

Operations Training, Standardization/Evaluation Update

Presenters: Joe Keller, Sr. Program Manager, Stan/Eval, Eric Templeton, Sr. Program Manager, CAP Operations Training, & Col. Mike Moyer, CAP, Deputy Sr. Program Manager, Stan/Eval

Program Managers for Stan/Eval and Operations Training will provide members with an update on regulations, upcoming changes, modifications, and projects expected to be deployed to the field in the future.

New CAP Technology in sUAS

Presenter: Austin Worcester, National Technology Center Sr. Program Manager

Learn about the new technology now being used by CAP in the sUAS field. Find out the best use cases for these new and exciting technologies and aircraft types. This session is appropriate for IC's, OSCs, AOBDs, GBDs, and sUAS interested CAP members, both cadet and seniors.

Learning Management/Education and Training

Did You Know... CAP has a Mentoring Program?

Presenter: Lt. Col. Deborah Kolos, CAP, National Director of Mentoring

The session will discuss the paths for both mentors and mentees and how CAP can provide opportunities for both. Learn the value (and fun!) of volunteering as a mentor – and the value for a mentee to have guidance to achieve their goals.

Using the New Volunteer University System

Presenter: Lt. Col. Michael Bryant, CAP, Provost of Volunteer University

The new Learning Management System called Absorb is much more efficient, easier to use and has more options, but only if you know how to use it. Whether you are a student, faculty member or ETO come and find out how it will make your life better.

The World Changes, So Should You

Presenter: Maj. Brenda Morrissey, CAP, VolU Chair, Level 3 Onsite

This session will present change management principles as they relate to the roles in command and management in Civil Air Patrol. Calling upon recent literature and practical

knowledge, participants will be enabled to present, promote, and navigate needed changes as they come about, making them proactive leaders of change rather than uncomfortable “victims” of change.

Evolution of VolU

Presenter: Lt. Col. Michael Bryant, CAP, Provost of Volunteer University

This session will review the coming changes to Volunteer University and discuss how your squadron, group, and wing can build a dynamic yet flexible program to help your members succeed. Senior members, ETO, Commanders, and anyone interested in being a VolU instructor would benefit from this session.

Navigating the New CAP Education and Training

Presenters: Lt. Col. Michael Saile, CAP, Great Lakes Region DCS for Education & Training & Lt. Col. Pamela Saile, CAP Great Lakes Region Asst. DCS for Education & Training

Do you have a specialty track? Do you know what you need to complete your specialty track? Do you know what you need to complete your current professional development level? Do you know what you need to be eligible for your next promotion? The answers to these questions and more will be revealed during this learning session.

Logistics

What's Going On with Aircraft Maintenance?

Presenter: Rodger Kirkpatrick, Aircraft Maintenance & Lifecycle Manager

Through interactive discussion and case studies, attendees will gain insight into the crucial role maintenance plays in ensuring the safety and reliability of CAP aircraft operations. Attendees will also gain an understanding of trends and challenges facing the CAP maintenance operations.

History

What's in a Date? A Historical Analysis of Civil Air Patrol's Birthday

Presenter: Lt. Col. Seth Hudson, CAP, National Historian

This session presents a historical review and analysis of the events creating Civil Air Patrol, what actions took place in December 1941, and the perspective of Civil Air Patrol's birthday.

Government Relations

Maximizing Your State Legislative Outreach

Presenters: Kimberly Carole, Deputy Director, Government Relations & John Swain, Director, Government Relations

Explore how to strengthen your wings relationship with its state government through outreach to increase support for CAP missions, funding, and helpful legislation. The

Government Relations Directorate will host a guided discussion where attendees can share their experiences and best practices that build trust and bolsters relationships. Wing commanders, government relations advisors, and other members interested in government relations, especially cadets, can learn where to begin stakeholder engagement and effective outreach.

Inspector General

The Inspector General Complaint Resolution System

Presenter: Lt. Col. Preston Perrenot, CAP, National Deputy Inspector General, Complaint Resolution

Learn what the Inspector General Complaint Resolution system is and how complaints are analyzed and investigated.

Demystifying the CAP Inspections Program

Presenter: Col. Russell Chazell, CAP, National Deputy Inspector General, Inspections

This learning session gives an overview of the CAP inspections program to include Wing and Region compliance inspections and Subordinate Unit Inspections. A question-and-answer session will follow.

Safety/Health Services

Health Services: Upcoming Changes and Impacts

*Presenters: Maj. Gerry Creager, CAP, Deputy Senior Program Manager, Health Services,
Lt. Col. (Dr) Stephen Leighton, Senior Program Manager, Health Services, &
Maj. Heather Parth, CAP*

Health Services has seen a resurgence since the beginning of the Pandemic. In addition to working much more closely with Safety and Chaplaincy, work has been ongoing that will have impacts across the organization, including in Cadet activities and real-world operations, and in areas like training. Learn how these changes will impact a number of aspects of CAP, and why they were envisioned.

Food for Thought: Safely Feeding Our Members at Long-Duration, Large Scale Events

Presenter: Maj. Rachael Mercer, CAP, Vice Commander, South Carolina Wing

Napoleon Bonaparte stated, "an army marches on its stomach." How we meet the caloric needs of all our members while also making the modifications required for those with medical, religious, or dietary restrictions is so important. Feeding members at large-scale, long-duration events can be challenging for even skilled chefs, and most of our members have never cooked for more than 10-15 people. Come learn about adequate dietary modifications, caloric sufficiency, and food safety.

CAP-USAF

CAP-USAF 101

Presenters: David Reichert, CAP-USAF Director of Training & Capt Arielle Heald, CAP-USAF/JA

This session will introduce you to CAP's active-duty counterpart, CAP-USAF. We will begin by discussing the by-law requirements of why CAP-USAF exists, what we do as CAP-USAF on a day-by-day basis and how we are substantially involved to ensure that CAP is set up for success. There will be time for Q&A at the end for any questions you might have regarding CAP-USAF's role and how we can best assist you.

Human Resources

Let's Talk About It – The Wing Administrator Program

Presenters: Rosalind King, Deputy Director for Human Resources and Andrea Love, Human Resources Generalist

This is an open forum where the Wing Commanders can discuss topics or issues that pertain to the Wing Administrator's program with Human Resources. Receive advice on the best way to handle the problem based on best practices and CAP policy and procedures.

NOTE: Attendance at this session is by invitation only from the Deputy Director for Human Resources.