CADET POCKET GUIDE

CIVIL AIR PATROL

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

LOEWS KANSAS CITY
AUGUST 28-29, 2026

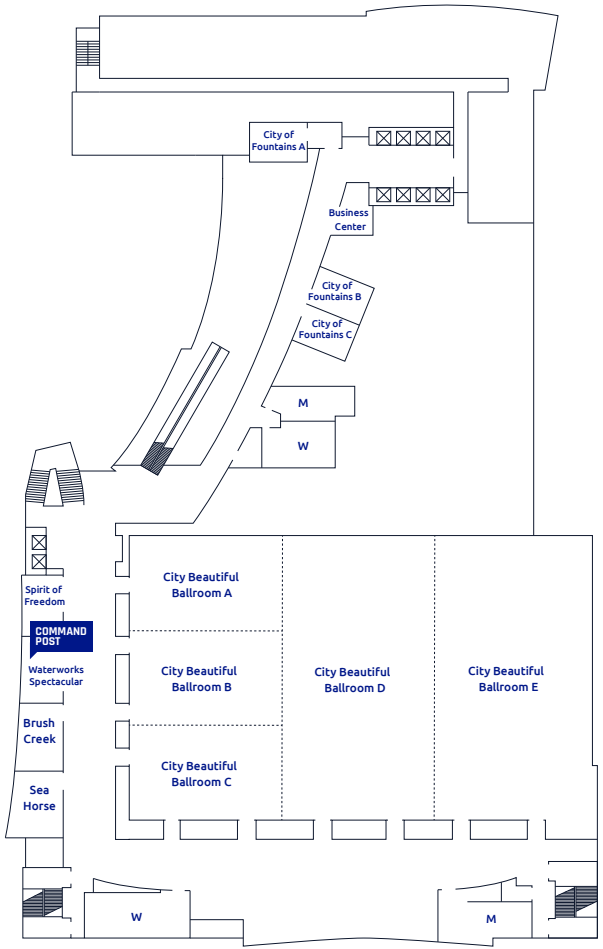
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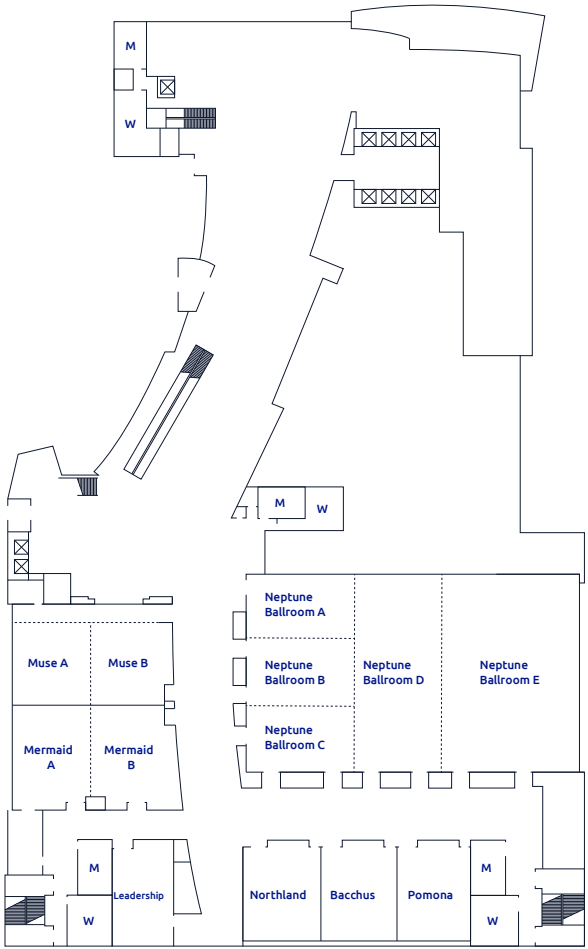


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Ballroom Level



Junior Ballroom Level

Master Schedule

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28	ROOM
6:15-6:45AM I NATIONAL COMMANDER'S CALL TO PRAYER	CITY BEAUTIFUL C
6:45-7:45AM I BREAKFAST	CITY BEAUTIFUL DE
7:30AM-5:00PM I VANGUARD OUTLET	CITY BEAUTIFUL A
8:00-9:00AM I OPENING- COMMANDER'S ADDRESS	CITY BEAUTIFUL DE
9:00-9:30AM I AWARDS CEREMONY 1	CITY BEAUTIFUL DE
9:45-10:30AM I LEARNING SESSION BLOCK 1	SEE PAGE 8
9:45-11:30AM I CADET CAREER CONNECTIONS	CITY BEAUTIFUL B & PREFUNCTION
10:00AM-4:00PM I OPERATION PULSE LIFT BLOOD DRIVE	MERMAID A
10:30-11:30AM I HANGAR TIME & BEVERAGE BREAK	NEPTUNE BALLROOM
11:30AM-12:15PM I LEARNING SESSION BLOCK 2	SEE PAGE 9
12:15-1:45PM I LUNCH	CITY BEAUTIFUL DE
1:45-2:45PM I KEYNOTE: MAJ. TAYLOR HIESTER	CITY BEAUTIFUL DE
2:45-3:15PM I AWARDS CEREMONY 2	CITY BEAUTIFUL DE
3:15-4:00 I CAP-NASA MEET N' GREET	POMONA

3:15-4:15 I HANGAR TIME & BEVERAGE BREAK	NEPTUNE BALLROOM
4:15-5:00PM I LEARNING SESSION BLOCK 3	SEE PAGE 10
5:00-6:00PM I CADET PROGRAMS ADULT RECEPTION	MERMAID B
6:00-7:00PM I JEWISH SHABBAT EDUCATIONAL SERVICE (OPEN TO ALL)	POMONA
7:00-8:00PM I JEWISH SHABBAT SEUDAH (MEAL) (REGISTRATION REQUIRED)	POMONA
7:00-8:30PM I CADET MYSTERY NIGHT ACTIVITY	TBA
HOURS POSTED ONSITE I OFFICIAL PHOTOS	CITY OF FOUNTAINS B

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29	ROOM
5:45-6:45AM I FUN RUN	LOBBY
6:45-7:45AM I BREAKFAST	CITY BEAUTIFUL DE
7:30AM-3:00PM I VANGUARD OUTLET	CITY BEAUTIFUL A
8:00-9:00AM I KEYNOTE: JOSEPH ACABA	CITY BEAUTIFUL DE
9:00-9:30AM I AWARDS CEREMONY 3	CITY BEAUTIFUL DE
9:45-10:30AM I LEARNING SESSION BLOCK 4	SEE PAGE 11

9:45-10:30AM I SPAATZ GROUP PHOTO	CITY BEAUTIFUL DE
10:30-11:30AM I HANGAR TIME AND BEVERAGE BREAK	NEPTUNE BALLROOM
11:30AM-12:15PM I LEARNING SESSION BLOCK 5	SEE PAGE 11
12:15-1:45PM I LUNCH	CITY BEAUTIFUL DE
1:45-2:30PM I DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES	SEE PAGE 12
2:30-3:00PM I DEPARTMENT OFFICE HOURS	SEE PAGE 12
3:00-4:00PM I HANGAR TIME AND BEVERAGE BREAK	NEPTUNE BALLROOM
4:00-4:30PM I HALL OF HONOR	CITY BEAUTIFUL DE
4:30-4:55PM I CLOSING	CITY BEAUTIFUL DE
5:00-5:30PM I CATHOLIC MASS	LEADERSHIP
5:00-5:30PM I PROTESTANT SERVICE	BACCHUS
6:00-7:00PM I VIP RECEPTION (INVITATION ONLY)	CITY BEAUTIFUL C
7:00-8:30PM I NATIONAL COMMANDER'S RECEPTION (OPTIONAL PURCHASE)	CITY BEAUTIFUL DE
7:00-8:30PM I CADET LOUNGE	MERMAID AB
HOURS POSTED ONSITE I OFFICIAL PHOTOS	CITY OF FOUNTAINS B


CAP
CAP
JAMES

Learning Sessions

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28	
9:45-10:30AM I LEARNING SESSION BLOCK 1	ROOM/AUDIENCE(S)
Career Conversations: Exploring Pathways Through Professional Networking *Panel of Professionals* Hear from a panel of professionals representing careers in aerospace, STEM, leadership, and beyond as they share their experiences and advice. After the panel, participants can freely move throughout the networking area to ask questions, make connections, and engage in informal conversations with professionals from a variety of fields.	CITY BEAUTIFUL B CADETS
Lead with Emotional Intelligence: Strengthening Your Impact as a Leader *Chaplain (Colonel) John Reutemann, CAP/HC Chief of Chaplains* Discover how the four domains of emotional intelligence (EQ) shape effective leadership and influence success beyond technical skills. This session explores practical strategies to develop EQ and apply it in real-world leadership situations.	LEADERSHIP CADETS ADULTS
Hands-On with StellarXplorers: Building and Flying Your First Space Mission *Maj Bill Blatchley, CAP/AE Cyber Mission Team Deputy for Education and Awareness* Dive into a hands-on introduction to StellarXplorers by exploring how to form a team and actively work with Systems Toolkit (STK) to design and analyze satellite missions. Participants will engage directly with mission planning and data tools while discovering how this e-sport builds real-world space and STEM skills.	MUSE B CADETS ADULTS

11:30AM-12:15 PM I LEARNING SESSION BLOCK 2	ROOM/AUDIENCE(S)
Design Your Destiny: Mapping Your CAP Success Path *Mary Albright, CAP/CP Program Manager, Cadet Career Exploration* Take control of your cadet journey by building a personalized roadmap for success in Civil Air Patrol and beyond. This high-energy workshop helps cadets set goals, plan their advancement, and connect their CAP experience to real-world opportunities like careers, scholarships, and leadership growth.	MUSE B CADETS
From Hobby to Mission: sUAS Pathways for Cadets *Col John O'Neill, MOWG Director of Aerospace Education* Discover how small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) play a critical role in CAP missions and how cadets can get involved. This session builds interest and provides a clear, cadet-focused pathway to grow skills and move from hobbyist flying to real-world applications and future careers.	MUSE A CADETS
Conducting Deliberate Risk Management, sponsored by Lycoming Engines *Damen Therkildsen, CAP/SE Director of Safety* *Charlene Garcia, CAP/SE Aviation Safety Program Manager* Learn how to apply deliberate risk assessment within CAP's Safety Management System to proactively identify hazards, evaluate risk and apply controls. This session provides practical tools to support informed decision-making, strengthen accountability, and promote a proactive safety culture.	BACCHUS CADETS ADULTS

4:15-5:00 PM I LEARNING SESSION BLOCK 3	ROOM/AUDIENCE(S)
Own Your Reputation: Building a Personal Brand Through Character *Capt Casey Smith, Character Development Instructor, UTWG* Your character is revealed through the choices you make and the way you treat others each day. In this interactive session, you'll reflect on what you want to be known for and identify practical ways to align your actions with the Core Values of the Civil Air Patrol.	MUSE B CADETS
NASA's Helio Club: Hands-On Exploration of Our Closest Star *Capt Shannon Babb, National NASA Missions National Coordinator* *Laura-Ashley Alegbeleye, Senior Outreach Coordinator, NASA HEAT* *Christina Milotte, Education Specialist, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center* Experience NASA's Helio Club through interactive STEM challenges that reveal how the Sun impacts NASA missions and space operations. This session equips you with engaging activities and resources to bring space weather and solar science directly to your squadron.	MUSE A CADETS
From Planning to Impact: Cadet Leadership within Government Relations *C/Col Cameron Milleman, INWG Cadet Government Relations Advisor* *Lt Col Jason McDonald, INWG Government Relations Advisor* *Lt Col Malcolm Webb, INWG Government Relations Advisor* Learn how to design and implement a sustainable model for cadet-led government relations programs, including National Legislative Day. This session explores proven processes, mentorship strategies, and real-world lessons to help wings empower cadets as leaders.	LEADERSHIP CADETS ADULTS
Advanced Encampment Roundtable *Heather Weaver, CAP/CP Program Manager, Cadet Leadership Camps* Join NHQ Cadet Programs staff for an open forum exploring the growing use of advanced encampments and co-located cadet schools. This session highlights existing programs, shares best practices, and provides space for discussion, questions, and collaboration among participants.	CITY BEAUTIFUL B CADETS ADULTS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

9:45-10:30AM I LEARNING SESSION BLOCK 4	ROOM/AUDIENCE(S)
From Cadet to Cockpit: Lessons in Leadership Under Pressure *Maj Taylor Hiester, Viper Demo Team Commander/Pilot* Join Maj Hiester for an exclusive cadet-focused session exploring how lessons learned as a CAP cadet helped prepare him to lead and perform under pressure flying the F-16 in aerial displays around the world. Through stories of high-stakes decision-making, including managing a major in-flight emergency, cadets will see how lessons learned as a CAP cadet can shape a lifetime of leadership and prepare them for challenges they may never expect.	MUSE A **CADETS**
Leadership, Exploration, and Spaceflight: Insights from an Aerospace Leader *Joseph M. Acaba, Astronaut & Associate Director of Mission and Strategy, JSC NASA* Join Joe Acaba for a conversation about his unique career journey from Marine to teacher to NASA astronaut. In this cadet-only session, participants will hear behind-the-scenes stories, explore lessons in leadership and perseverance, and have the opportunity to ask questions about spaceflight, STEM careers, and life at NASA.	MUSE B **CADETS**
11:30AM-12:15PM I LEARNING SESSION BLOCK 5	ROOM/AUDIENCE(S)
Reframing Radio: Engaging Cadets Through Emergency Impact and STEM Innovation *Alan Altis, CAP/DOK Command & Control Communications Program Manager* Discover how to transform radio communications from "outdated tech" into an exciting, mission-critical tool that empowers cadets in emergency services and leadership roles. This session also highlights how radio can serve as a hands-on STEM platform, offering engaging opportunities from satellite tracking to software-defined radio experimentation that connect theory to real-world application.	MUSE A **CADETS**

Leading the Challenge: Facilitating Team Initiatives with Confidence *Chelsea Mulcahy, CAP/CP Program Manager, Cadet Core Curriculum* Learn how to plan and lead engaging team challenge activities while building strong facilitation skills. This session helps cadets adapt in the moment, read group dynamics, and confidently guide teams through meaningful, goal-driven experiences.	NORTHLAND CADETS
First Aid Support Teams (FAST): Empowering Cadets in Health Services *Lt Col Tim Cheslock, MAR Health Services Officer* Learn how to implement First Aid Support Teams (FAST) to strengthen health services while providing cadets with meaningful, hands-on leadership experience. This session covers team structure, appropriate cadet roles, and best practices to ensure safe, effective, and policy-aligned implementation.	BACCHUS CADETS ADULTS

Departmental Updates

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 1:45PM-2:30PM

NHQ personnel departments will share what's new, what's evolving, and what's on the horizon within their area. Get a deeper understanding of current initiatives, priorities, and changes. This is your opportunity to ask questions about the work shaping the organization. Open to everyone.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2:30PM-3:00PM

Following each session, the national team will remain available for 30 minutes of informal office hours to continue the conversation and answer additional questions.

DEPARTMENT	ROOM
CADET PROGRAMS	CITY BEAUTIFUL B
AEROSPACE EDUCATION	NORTHLAND
OPERATIONS	MERMAID A
LEGAL CORPS	POMONA
HEALTH SERVICES	CITY BEAUTIFUL C
CHAPLAIN CORPS	BACCHUS
NCO CORPS	LEADERSHIP

Don't Miss Events Just for Cadets

THURSDAY

Cadet Meet n' Greet

7:00-8:00 PM

City Beautiful Pre-Function Area (outside City Beautiful D)

Kick off the conference with a cadet-only meet and greet, designed to help you meet fellow cadets, make new friends, and connect with peers from across the country. Led by cadet staff.

UOD: Civies; Optional – wear your favorite squadron shirt

NCAC Open House

8:00-9:00 PM

City Beautiful Pre-Function Area (outside City Beautiful D)

After the Meet n' Greet, stop by the NCAC Open House to connect with cadet leaders from across the country, learn how councils operate, and explore opportunities to get involved and grow your leadership.

UOD: Civies

FRIDAY

Career Conversations: Exploring Pathways Through Professional Networking

9:45-10:30 AM (PANEL)
10:30-11:30 AM (NETWORKING)

City Beautiful B

Hear from a panel of professionals representing careers in aerospace, STEM, leadership, and beyond as they share their experiences and advice with cadets. After the panel, participants can freely move throughout the networking area to ask questions, make connections, and engage in informal conversations with professionals from a variety of fields.

Cadet Mystery Activity

7:00-8:30 PM

Location Announced in Remind or at the Cadet Help Desk

Join us Friday night for a cadet-only Mystery Activity—an after-hours surprise packed with fun, energy, and a chance to connect with cadets from across the country.

UOD: Civies

SATURDAY

Cadet Lounge

7:00 – 8:30 PM

Mermaid A&B

Close out the conference with a casual cadet-only hangout—drop in and enjoy a laid-back evening together before heading home. Snacks provided.

UOD: Civies

ALL WEEKEND LONG!

Scavenger Hunt

Complete challenges like attending sessions, connecting with others, and exploring key events. Turn in your completed Passport by 3:30 PM on Saturday to win an exclusive prize. Pick up and return Passport at the Cadet Programs Hangar table.

Career Directory

Cadet Programs and Career Discovery Hangar tables, Cadet Info Desk

Use the Career Directory to find senior members, presenters, and sponsors who have opted in to share their career paths and connect with cadets. Look up careers that interest you, find those individuals around the conference, and start conversations to ask questions and build your network.

SPECIAL EVENTS! FOR CADETS & ADULTS

Your chaperone does not need to attend with you, but **you must inform your chaperone that you are leaving the hotel** with an activity group.

CAP-NASA Meet N' Greet

Friday, 3:15-4:00, Pomona Room. All participants of any CAP-NASA mission are invited to connect with representatives from NASA. Group photo at 3:25.

3K Fun Run

Saturday 5:30 AM. Meet in hotel lobby. Uniform is athletic clothing.

Commander's Reception Saturday

Saturday 7-8:30 PM. Soft drinks and hot/cold hors d'oeuvres provided. Uniform is anything from smart business casual to Mess Dress. Prior registration required.



DON'T MISS IN THE HANGAR!

Career Connections Discovery Table

Visit the Career Discovery table during each Hangar session to meet a rotating group of professionals—from STEM and aviation experts to leadership speakers and CAP staff—ready to answer questions, share career insights, and help you build your network. Career Directory also located here.

Sponsor Tables

Visit the sponsor tables with the Career Connections symbol to meet with industry professionals who are eager to share about career exploration, share their experiences, and help you start building your network.

Sphero Robot Races

Try your hand at navigating a robot through an obstacle course to compete for the best time!

Book Signing

Don't miss the book signing in the Hangar for Dangerous Shores, a book that explores the role Civil Air Patrol and other civilians played in protecting the east coast from German attacks during World War II. The author will be on site to meet cadets and sign copies of the book.

Hangar 101

The Hangar is our exhibit hall—a place to explore opportunities, meet professionals, and learn about careers and programs across CAP and our partners.

Make Career Connections

Talk with professionals at and ask about their careers, what their day-to-day work looks like, and what paths led them there. Don't be shy—this is your chance to network. Remember to look for the symbol!

Make the Rounds

Don't stop at just one table—walk the entire Hangar and see everything that's available. Each booth offers something different.

Collect Information (Not Just Swag)

Take notes, grab business cards or materials, and pay attention to contacts you may want to follow up with after the conference.

Be Curious and Engaged

A simple conversation can lead to mentorship, inspiration, or even future opportunities—treat every interaction as meaningful.



Look for tables with the career connections symbol to connect with professionals about career exploration!

Ask Good Questions

About their career path

- What does a typical day in your job look like?
- How did you get started in this field?
- What part of your job do you enjoy the most?
- What's been the most challenging part of your career?

About education and preparation

- What education or training did you need for your role?
- If you could go back, what would you do differently in high school or college?
- Are there specific skills you think are most important for success in your field?
- What classes, hobbies, or experiences helped prepare you the most?

About opportunities and pathways

- What entry-level jobs or internships are available at your company?
- How do people typically get hired into roles like yours?
- Are there opportunities for students or cadets to get involved early?

About the organization

- What does your company/organization do in simple terms?
- What kinds of people tend to succeed here?
- What new projects or innovations are you excited about right now?

Advice and next steps

- What advice would you give someone interested in this career?
- What's one thing you wish more students knew about this field?
- How can someone like me start preparing now?
- Is there anything you recommend I look into or explore next?

Information & Help

Join the Text Announcements!

Opt-in to get cadet-specific conference updates and announcements. Choose one for best service.

- **Cadets: Text CADETS to (737) 312-2270**
- **Chaperones: Text SENIORS to (737) 312-2270**

Cadet Check-in

All cadets must scan in at **every** designated check-in block listed below; to check in, scan your **Daily Check-in Code**, (on the back of your conference badge) at the Cadet Help Desk, located outside of City Beautiful D. Be sure to review all announcements listed on the board.

Cadets must check in at the following times.

Friday

- During Breakfast: 6:45 & 8:00 AM
- During Lunch: 12:15 & 1:45 PM
- After last session: 5:00-6:00 PM

Saturday

- During Breakfast: 6:45 & 8:00 AM
- During Lunch: 12:15 & 1:45 PM
- After last session: 5:00-6:00 PM

Cadet Help Desk

If you have any questions or run into any issues during the conference, visit the Cadet Check-In & Help Desk for assistance. The desk is located outside of City Beautiful D. Career Directory is also located here.

Cadet Help Line (334) 245-3990

Cadets and chaperones may also call or text the Helpline at any time—there is no chain of command for this number, and it is available to anyone for any question, issue, or emergency. You must also contact the Help Line if you are feeling unwell and will miss scheduled activities.

Emergencies

If you need assistance, follow the steps below in order until you find the help you need.

1. Call your Cadet Chaperone first
2. Contact the Cadet Help Line: (334) 245-3990
3. Go to the CAP Command Post (open 8am-5pm) in Room: Waterworks Spectacular
4. Find any available CAP Senior Member or National Staff Member and ask for help
5. Go to the hotel front desk and ask them to contact CAP on your behalf
6. Send a text to the Remind group, this is a last resort as it may take some time for someone to respond.

Cadet Code of Conduct

Attending the CAP National Conference is a privilege and as such you are expected to behave professionally. Whether you are in or out of uniform at the conference or in Kansas City, you are representing the Civil Air Patrol and must abide by CAP rules and regulations. We want you to learn and have fun but ultimately your safety, health, and well-being is the number one priority. This document will also be shared with your parents/guardians on file and your CAP Cadet Chaperone.

1. As a member of CAP it is expected that you follow all CAP regulations and abide by the Core Values: Integrity, Respect, Excellence & Service.
2. Cadets may move independently within the main conference spaces during active, populated times. However, when traveling to or from the main conference spaces (or after hours), cadets are required to travel in groups of three or more. Main Conference spaces are limited to: CAP-designated rooms during conference hours.
3. Cadets may not use the pool area. Use of the gym and other isolated hotel spaces should be limited to populated times, and cadets must always travel in groups of three and avoid interacting with unfamiliar adults.
4. Cadets are responsible for ensuring their chaperone knows their whereabouts, especially during early morning and late evening hours.
5. Cadets may only be in their assigned hotel room or with their parents, guardians, or siblings, and are not permitted to visit or socialize in the hotel rooms of other cadets or senior members.
6. Cadet curfew is in effect from **10:30 PM to 6:00 AM**; during this time, cadets must remain in their assigned rooms unless accompanied by a parent, guardian, or chaperone.
7. Cadets may not leave the hotel unless accompanied by at least two senior members or their parent/guardian.
8. All cadets will be required to check in with the staff during designated times. Check-in is mandatory and will be recorded (times on page 18).
9. If you have symptoms of a cold, please stay in your hotel room and contact your chaperone and the Cadet Help Line - (334) 245-3990.

    a. Contagious illnesses such as a cold, the flu or COVID can spread easily through a conference setting. Please stay in your room, wear a mask for necessary outings. Masks and COVID tests are available upon request.


CAP
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NATIONAL
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City