SENIOR MEMBER POCKET GUIDE

CIVIL AIR PATROL

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

LOEWS KANSAS CITY
AUGUST 28-29, 2026

2026



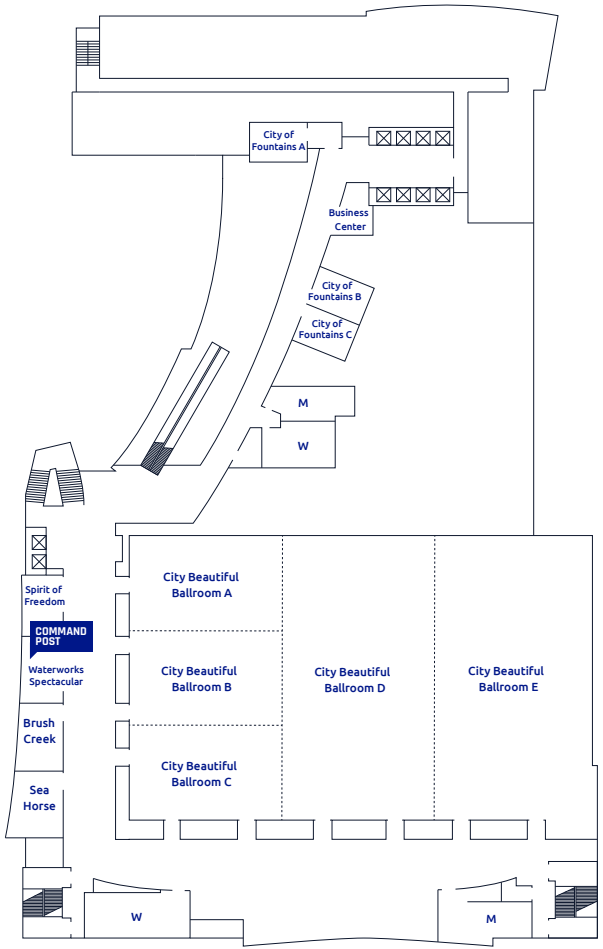


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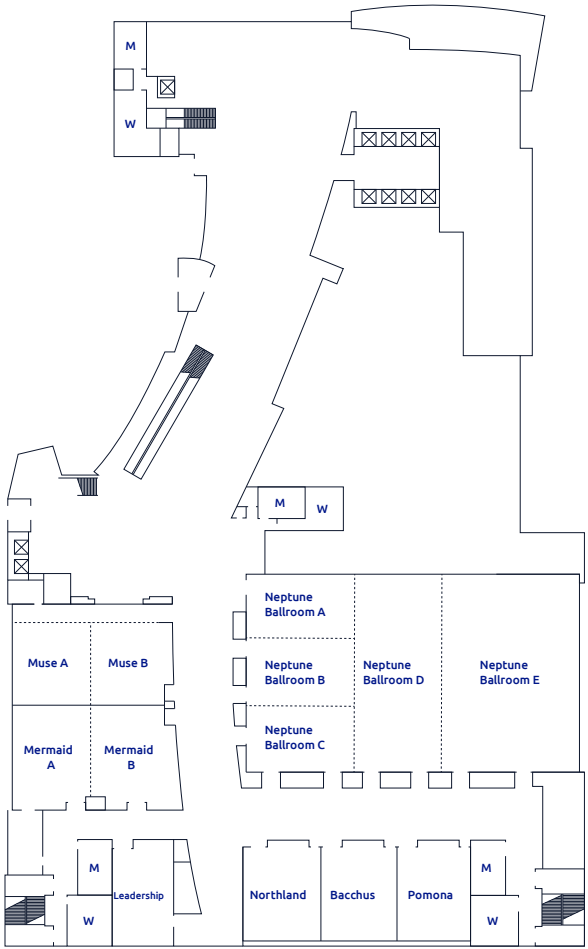
MASTER SCHEDULE 4-6

LEARNING SESSIONS 8-17

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES 18



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 (CADETS ONLY)	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 10
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 12
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 (CADETS ONLY)	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 14

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 16
12:15-1:45PM I LUNCH	CITY BEAUTIFUL DE
1:45-2:30PM I DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES	SEE PAGE 18
2:30-3:00PM I DEPARTMENT OFFICE HOURS	SEE PAGE 18
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 (CADETS ONLY)	MERMAID AB
HOURS POSTED ONSITE I OFFICIAL PHOTOS	CITY OF FOUNTAINS B



Learning Sessions

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28	
9:45-10:30AM I LEARNING SESSION BLOCK 1	ROOM
Lead with Emotional Intelligence: Strengthening Your Impact as a Leader *Chaplain (Col.) 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
Right People, Aligned Mission: Inside the Membership Boards *Anne Formanek, CAP/GC Interim General Council* *Lt. Col. Doug Rutherford, CAP/JAA Assistant National Legal Officer* *Marie Vogt, CAP/DP Director, Personnel and Membership Actions* *Katie Thurson CAP/CP Program Manager, Cadet Protection* Learn how to effectively conduct a unit membership board to evaluate adult applicants for Civil Air Patrol. This session covers CAPR 39-2 requirements, successful interview techniques, common pitfalls, and strategies to ensure decisions align with policies and organizational standards.	NORTHLAND
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

Behind the Partnership: CAP-USAF in Action *Lt. Col. Chris Ferguson, CAP-USAF Inspector General* *Col. Joe Winter, CAP/IG National Inspector General* *Lt. Col. James Chongris (Det/3CC)* *Mr. Chris Nester (CAP-USAF ROD)* *Mr. Dean Richardson (CAP-USAF ROD)* Discover how CAP-USAF plays a critical role in guiding and strengthening CAP's mission. This dynamic session breaks down their oversight of the Cooperative Agreement and highlights the powerful partnership that drives mission success.	POMONA
Serving During Tragedy: CAP's Response on September 11, 2001 *Col. Rick Greenhut, Northeast Region Commander, 2001-2005* Explore how CAP mobilized in the aftermath of 9/11, flying photo missions over Ground Zero and transporting critical blood and plasma supplies into the New York area. This session examines CAP's nationwide response efforts and the lessons learned through the firsthand experiences of the mission's initial incident commander.	CITY BEAUTIFUL C
Strengthening Mission Safety, sponsored by America's Aircraft Engines *Charlene Garcia, CAP/SE Aviation Safety Program Manager* *Joe Keller, CAP/DOV Senior Program Manager, Stan/Eval* Discover the core principles of Crew Resource Management (CRM) and Threat & Error Management (TEM) used across CAP operations. Learn how communication, situational awareness, and structured decision-making improve teamwork and mission safety, while introducing practical tools like closed-loop communication and the DECIDE model.	BACCHUS

QPR Suicide Prevention Training *Maj. Brenda M. Morrissey, National Director of Continuing Education* Learn how to identify warning signs of suicide risk and take confident, appropriate action using the QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) approach. This session equips participants with practical skills to support others, respond in critical moments, and connect individuals to the help they need. Certification course. Registration required.	MUSE A
11:30AM-12:15 PM I LEARNING SESSION BLOCK 2	ROOM
From Activity to Insight: Facilitating Meaningful Learning Conversations *Chelsea Mulcahy, CAP/CP Program Manager, Cadet Core Curriculum* Learn how to plan and lead effective post-activity conversations that turn experiences into lasting learning. Grounded in experiential learning models, this session focuses on intentional pre-planning, facilitation flow, and techniques to help cadets draw deeper meaning and impact from every activity.	CITY BEAUTIFUL B
Wing-Led Excellence in Orientation Flights: Building an Operation Plan *Joe Keller, CAP/DOV Senior Program Manager, Stan/Eval* *David Benning, CAP/CP Cadet Aviation Program Assistant* Learn how wings can develop a standardized, high-quality orientation flight program that ensures consistency, safety, and broad access. This session explores how a wing-level operations plan operations can support local units, and ensure every cadet has the opportunity to participate.	POMONA

CAP Health System Updates: Enhancements and CAPSIS Integration *Lt. Col. Sydney Schneidman, GLR Health Services Officer* *Maj. Gerry Creager, Deputy Chief, Health Services* Explore the CAP Health system, including security features and the transition to an electronic health record. Discover how CAP Health integrates with CAPSIS to support accurate reporting and strengthen collaboration between Health Services and Safety.	CITY BEAUTIFUL C
Unified Response: Navigating Complex Issues Together *National Inspector General, Legal Corps, Cadet Programs and Equal Opportunity Personnel* Learn how IG, Cadet Protection, Equal Opportunity, and Legal coordinate when situations don't fit neatly into one lane. This session walks through how complaints are shared, when to involve each office, and how to communicate clearly while respecting roles and delivering holistic, mission-focused solutions.	NORTHLAND
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
Tearing Down the Silos: A Collaborative Approach to Cadet Opportunities *Lt. Col. Eduardo Linares, FLWG Deputy Chief of Staff (Strategy, Integration & Requirements)* *Capt. Teresa Beebe, FLWG Director of Cadet Programs* Discover how breaking down silos across directorates and echelons can unlock greater opportunities for cadets. This session shares practical frameworks and real-world examples to help units and wings collaborate, expand training pipelines, and strengthen retention.	LEADERSHIP

4:15-5:00 PM I LEARNING SESSION BLOCK 3	ROOM
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.	CITY BEAUTIFUL B
Engaging Neurodiverse Learners Without Barriers *Maj. Brenda M. Morrissey, National Director of Continuing Education* Discover creative, low-cost strategies to design lessons that effectively include learners with diverse neurodivergent needs. This session focuses on reducing stress and embarrassment while creating an engaging, supportive learning environment.	POMONA
Supporting the Whole Member: Integrating Health Service, Safety, Chaplaincy, and Cadet Programs *Lt. Col. Stephen Leighton, MD, CAP/HS Chief, Health Services* *Damen Therkildsen, CAP/SE Director of Safety* *Katie Thurson CAP/CP Program Manager, Cadet Protection* *Lt. Col. Michael L Morison, Chaplain Corp, Chief of Plans & Programs* Discover how Health Services, the Chaplain Corps, Safety, and Cadet Programs have broken down silos to create a unified approach to member support. This session highlights how the collaboration works, where it happens, and how wings can apply this model to enhance both daily operations and special events.	CITY BEAUTIFUL C

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.	LEADERSHIP
Continuing Compliance, sponsored by Ewing Engineered Solutions *Col. Russ Chazell, Principal Deputy National Inspector General* *Col. Frank Eldridge, Deputy National Inspector General Inspections* *Lt. Col. Martin Krebs, Deputy National Inspector General Compliance Analysis* Explore how Continuous Compliance moves oversight from occasional inspections to ongoing, risk-informed readiness. This session provides practical tools to monitor compliance, spot early warning signs, and integrate standards into daily operations to strengthen credibility and reduce surprises.	NORTHLAND
Cadet Advisory Council 101: Leveraging the Cadet Voice *Lt. Col. Logan Gallo, National Cadet Advisory Council Senior Advisor* *Lt. Col. Natalie Gray, Assistant NCAC Senior Advisor* Learn the purpose and structure of the Cadet Advisory Council (CAC) and the wing's role in supporting its success. This session focuses on how to develop effective CAC taskings, engage echelon staff support, and use the CAC to meaningfully incorporate the cadet perspective into decision-making.	BACCHUS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29	
9:45-10:30AM I LEARNING SESSION BLOCK 4	ROOM
Navigating National Cadet Special Activities *Mary Albright, CAP/CP Program Manager, Cadet Career Exploration* *Kathrine Schmidt, CAP/CP Sr. Program Manager, Cadet Aviation* Gain an overview of the 50+ National Cadet Special Activities and what you need to know to support cadet participation. This session highlights key requirements, responsibilities, and best practices to help leaders effectively guide cadets toward these premier career exploration opportunities.	CITIY BEAUTIFUL B
Legal Ethics vs. Moral Ethics: Navigating Decisions with Integrity *Col. Matthew Phillips, CAP/JA Chief of the Legal Officer Corps* *Chaplain (Col.) John Reutemann, CAP/HC Chief of Chaplains* Join the Chiefs of the Legal Officer Corps and the Chaplain Corps to explore the intersection of legal and moral ethics and how each shapes decision-making in complex situations. This session highlights why both Legal Officers and Chaplains are essential to a well-rounded staff and ethical leadership.	LEADERSHIP
Every Role Matters: Your Hidden Influence on Cadet Success *Col. Brian Schmuck, National Change Readiness Team Lead* *Chelsea Mulcahy, CAP/CP Program Manager, Cadet Core Curriculum* Geared toward members outside Cadet Programs, this session reveals how your everyday role already shapes cadet experiences while introducing the fundamentals of youth development. Discover practical, real-world ways to support cadets—and strengthen mission impact—without ever stepping into a Cadet Programs role.	BACCHUS

Mentoring in a Disconnected World: Building Meaningful Connections *Capt. Stephanie Moffitt, Leadership Officer, COWG* Explore how effective mentoring of both cadets and senior members can counter social isolation and strengthen relationships in today's increasingly disconnected environment. This session provides practical tools and real-world scenarios to help mentors build trust, navigate generational differences, and overcome challenges to foster meaningful growth.	MERMAID A
Cadet Medication Management: Safe and Effective Practices *Lt. Col. Jason Quick, SWR Assistant Health Services Officer* *Maj. Heather Parth, Deputy Senior Program Manager, Health Services* *Maj. Gerry Creager, Deputy Chief, Health Services* Learn how updated medication management procedures improve safety and align with broader youth program standards. This session covers the purpose, key roles, and practical steps to ensure medications are handled and administered properly during cadet activities.	CITY BEAUTIFUL C
Complaint Resolution: Handling Concerns Right the First Time *Col. Preston Perrenot, Deputy National Inspector General – Complaints Resolution* Explore how to resolve complaints with clarity, fairness, and trust from intake to closure. This session covers roles, jurisdiction, due process considerations, and common failure points to ensure timely, transparent, and effective outcomes.	NORTHLAND

QPR Suicide Prevention Training *Maj. Brenda M. Morrissey, National Director of Continuing Education* Learn how to identify warning signs of suicide risk and take confident, appropriate action using the QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) approach. This session equips participants with practical skills to support others, respond in critical moments, and connect individuals to the help they need. Certification course. Registration Required..	POMONA
11:30AM-12:15PM I LEARNING SESSION BLOCK 5	ROOM
Registration Zone Essentials: Creating, Managing, and Joining Events *Jacob McIntosh, CAP/CP Program Manager, Cadet Support Services* *Mary Albright, CAP/CP Program Manager, Cadet Career Exploration* Learn how to use Registration Zone as an event participant, staff member, or organizer. Get a hands-on demo of setting up and registering for events (including conferences), new feartures, and guidance for using built-in tools and reports effectively.	CITY BEAUTIFUL B
Keeping Members Engaged from the Start *Lt. Col. Todd Parsons, National Director of Retention* Member retention begins long before the renewal window; it starts with the first contact, first expectations, and first meaningful opportunities to contribute. This session will focus on practical, field-level retention actions commanders and staff can use to improve onboarding, engagement, mentorship, and the first-year member experience.	CITY BEAUTIFUL C
Activity Safety: Planning, Risk Management, and Shared Responsibility *Damen Therkildsen, CAP/SE Director of Safety* Learn how early safety planning, defined roles, and continuous risk awareness contribute to successful CAP activities, across all programs. This session explores how activity leaders and cadets can work together to identify hazards, manage risk, and foster a Just Culture that supports accountability, learning, and mission success.	LEADERSHIP

Sustaining People and Mission: Preventing Volunteer Burnout *Col. Roy Barden, North Dakota Wing Commander* *Maj. Jennifer Coburn, NDWG Chief of Staff & Legal Officer* Recognize and address burnout in high-demand volunteer environments before morale and retention are impacted. Learn practical strategies to sustain engagement, encourage workload distribution, and build a culture that supports people and mission success.	MERMAID A
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
Building the Bench: Strengthening Today's Inspector General Personnel *Col. Dan Leclair, National Deputy Inspector General - Education and Training* *Col. Cheryl Fielitz-Scarbrough, National Assistant Deputy Inspector General - Education and Training* Learn how targeted education and training develop a resilient, professional IG team. This session covers competency development, onboarding, ongoing training, and succession planning to ensure IG teams remain prepared, credible, and effective.	MUSE B
PlaneLogix: Advancing Aircraft Safety Through Maintenance Management Technology *Andrew Barron, CAP/LGM Director, Aircraft Maintenance & Management* Learn how PlaneLogix strengthens aircraft safety by improving maintenance visibility, documentation, compliance tracking, and fleet readiness. This session will highlight practical workflows and technology-enabled best practices that help units make better maintenance decisions, reduce risk, and support safer mission execution.	POMONA

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




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