



TRAINING LEADERS *of* CADETS

INTERMEDIATE COURSE

LESSON PLAN

3.2 Cadet Activities II

- VERSION:** October 2021 *please verify this is the latest version by visiting gocivilairpatrol.com/TLC*
- DURATION:** 45 minutes approximately, and subtopic times shown in margins below are also approximate
- INSTRUCTOR:** A master-rated cadet programs officer or highly experienced CC or CDC is suggested.
- This lesson plan does not provide a summary for each National Cadet Special Activity, scholarship program, or other special opportunity. It's assumed that between the instructor(s), students, and quick web searches that basic information for each resource can be obtained easily enough.
- KEY QUESTION:** What are the premiere wing and national-level activities, and how can you get your cadets involved?
- OBJECTIVES:**
1. Name several special activities to demonstrate familiarity with the breadth of opportunity available to cadets at the wing and national levels
 2. Recall basic information about the flying opportunities available to our cadets
 3. Recall basic information about the opportunities within CadetInvest
 4. Recall basic information about the opportunities within Cyber Defense
- SIMPLE OUTLINE:**
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Welcome & Starter | 8. Cadet Competition |
| 2. Overview of How We'll Proceed | 9. Cyber Defense |
| 3. Wreaths Across America | 10. Cadet Advisory Council |
| 4. Special Activities | 11. Special Activities in Your Wing |
| 5. Flying Opportunities | 12. Q&A Discussion |
| 6. International Air Cadet Exchange | 13. Conclusion |
| 7. CadetInvest | |
- TIME WARNING:** This session could easily run longer than time allows. Therefore, the instructor(s) should use a lecture / briefing format during the first portion of the lesson to convey basic information about cadet activities, scholarships, and other special opportunities. Then, participants can vote and select the top three subjects they wish to discuss in further depth.
- EQUIPMENT:** Butcher paper or white board and markers to capture discussion notes, as needed; access to ncsas.com would also be helpful



Welcome & Starter

1 min

Explore an aerospace career. Fly solo. Represent the USA overseas. Earn scholarships for college. CAP offers cadets some wonderful opportunities through national-level special activities, financial aid and special programs.



Weekly squadron meetings are vital to cadet retention, and it is in the squadron where cadets do the main work of learning and advancing in their program. But it is in the wing, regional, and national activities where the most exciting opportunities lay. For the next hour, we'll look into the amazing opportunities available to cadets during those special programs.



Overview & How We'll Proceed

1 min

For the next 30 minutes, I'll convey to you some basic facts about encampment, NCSAs, flight academies, scholarships, and similar special opportunities outside the squadron. I'll deliver that information in a lecture or briefing-style format, and I ask that you hold your questions to the end. We have a lot of information to get through, and this will be the most efficient use of our time.

After I present that basic information, you'll control the discussion. We'll spend the final 20 minutes of class diving deeper into a handful of those topics I only briefly described. So, if we speed through your topic during the first portion of class, know that we can come back to it in depth during the latter portion of class.



Wreaths Across America

2 min

Wreaths is a community service opportunity that includes a wonderful fundraising side benefit. When a cadet places a wreath on a veterans' grave, he or she discovers something about the price of freedom and the value of community service.

Your squadron will participate at a veteran's cemetery, ordinary community cemetery, monument, park, or other location that is already participating in Wreaths. Alternatively, if there are no participating locations in your area, you can arrange to have your community cemetery participate.

Participants begin by selling wreaths to friends, family, neighbors, coworkers, and the community at large. Donors sponsor wreaths at \$15 each, with \$5 returned to the fundraising organization (the squadron).

On a specially designated Saturday in mid-December, Wreaths Across America Day, cadets will place their wreaths on graves of deceased veterans.

Wreaths is a great recruiting and public affairs opportunity because your squadron will naturally get out into the community.

We're beginning our talk about activities with the Wreaths program because we want every squadron to participate. Unlike some of the other activities, there's no minimum age or rank. It's a learning opportunity, fundraising opportunity, and a public affairs and recruiting opportunity. For more information, see gocivilairpatrol.com/wreaths.



Special Activities

2 min

Through Cadet Special Activities (CSA) and National Cadet Special Activities (NCSA), cadets explore careers and develop leadership or Emergency Service skills. These programs are geared for cadets who have completed an encampment and are in their second year and beyond. CSA activities are accredited by NHQ but managed and operated by a wing or region. NCSA activities are managed by and operated by NHQ.

Typically, these activities run 1-2 weeks and admission tends to be competitive. All the activities available for each year are listed on ncsas.com. All activities listed on the NCSA webpage for a given year qualify for the blue and purple cadet Special Activities ribbon. A list of past activities and the years attendees to that activity qualify for wear of the ribbon is maintained on the “make your activity as CSA” subpage.

Cadets typically begin applying each December for the following spring/summer, and activities that take place in the winter have a fall application process. Of course, there are opportunities for senior members to serve as instructors and support staff.

It prudent for every squadron to take 15 minutes in December to do an information session/commercial for your squadron to encourage cadets to apply for the following summer’s Special Activities. It’s important to remind your cadets early on that in order to earn their Eaker they will need to complete a leadership academy. Several of these activities will meet this requirement.

Visit gocivilairpatrol.com/ncsa call out the names of some of the activities to give students a feel for the program’s offerings.



Flying Opportunities

3 min

There are several opportunities within CAP for cadets to obtain more advance flight training (beyond O-Flights). Let’s discuss the different options.

Flight Academies

Flight Academies are another Special Activity that cadets can participate in. These academies are geared towards those who have completed some orientation flights, studied their Aerospace Dimensions texts, and are ready to pursue formal flight instruction leading to a solo flight.

CAP operates flight academies in single-engine and glider aircraft. By law, students in powered aircraft must be 16, but for gliders cadets can be 14. These academies are typically 1–2-week activities that are held primarily in the summer. Many of these are operate like the NCSAs and CSAs but are technically a separate category because they are flying-oriented.

The Academies that are sanctioned by NHQ are listed on ncsas.com., with the other programs that were mentioned above. You can also check your wing and region for more locally operated flight academies.

Cadet Wings

Cadet Wings, funded by USAF and The Ray Foundation, provides fully funded training to selected cadets to earn their Private Pilot Certificate (PPC). The PPC is recognized by the

industry as the first milestone for those who have a serious desire to pursue a flying career. This program is merit based and highly competitive.

For cadets who are selected, NHQ works with them to develop a training timeline that works for their specific situation, location, etc., with no cost to the cadet. They may complete training using local fixed base operator or CAP airplane with CAP CFI over a period of up to 6 months or they may be selected to attend an in-residence program. Cadets seeking to use Cadet Wings funding from the Ray Foundation must have a squadron mentor. The mentor does not have to be a pilot but encourages and keeps the cadet on-track. The mentor must write a recommendation for the cadet during application and participate in bi-weekly meetings to assess the cadet's progress along their path to the PPC.

More on this program can be found at: www.gocivilairpatrol.com/cadetinvest
Cadets apply to this program through CadetInvest in eServices.

We'll talk more about CadetInvest in a moment.

Flight Scholarships

CAP also has resources for a few different flight scholarships that offer monies to cadets to pursue flight training outside of the flight programs mentioned above, or even outside of CAP entirely.

Flight Scholarships can also be found at: www.gocivilairpatrol.com/cadetinvest and typically have their own individual application processes.



International Air Cadet Exchange

1 min

IACE promotes international understanding and goodwill among young people who share a love of aviation. The program serves Earhart cadets aged 17 and up, with a small number of adult escorts. Participants spend 2 weeks visiting a foreign nation in the summer. Likewise, international cadets come to the US and there's opportunity for CAP members to participate in the exchange by interacting with the internationals during their stay here in the US. IACE is heavily subsidized by CAP so the participants' costs are kept low. As you might imagine, IACE's selection process is highly competitive. Apply for IACE the same as you would for other summertime NCSAs.

For more information, see ncsas.com.



CadetInvest

4 min

CadetInvest is the umbrella term used to describe the funding programs CAP offers to help cadet with the financial costs of CAP. There are a couple of different funding options to help cadets attend these special activities.



CEAP (*pronounced SEEP*)

Encampment is the centerpiece of the wing's cadet program and an immersion into the full opportunities and challenges of cadet life. We want everyone to get to encampment, and so does the Air Force. The Cadet Encampment Assistance Program, pronounced "seep", is a needs-based program that helps cadets with their tuition and uniform expenses. Families apply through the CEAP module in eServices in the spring for summer encampments and in fall for encampments conducted in the winter. CEAP closes a month before the encampment begins.

There is a hierarchy of financial needs that determines which cadets are selected for financial aid. Once all Priority One and Priority Two first-time attendee needs have been filled, we move onto Priority three first timers and returning cadets. The specific criteria for each level changes periodically to align with current income trends. You can see the specific criteria in the application in eServices. Each application requires unit commander approval before it can be processed at National HQ.

Cadets who attend encampment advance more rapidly through the Cadet Program, refresh their commitment to participate in CAP, and are more apt to renew their membership than cadets who do not participate in encampment.

The message we want you to deliver in your squadron is that (1) encampment is an awesome activity, with lots of fun and lots of challenge, and (2) everyone is invited to attend and hopefully will attend, and (3) money should not be an issue – if you don't think your family can afford encampment, know that you can apply for CEAP and we make every effort to fund cadets in need.

For more information, see gocivilairpatrol.com/ceap



TOP /LIFT

The Take-Off Program, also known as *TOP Cadet*, provides financial assistance for Flight Academies and any flight-based CSA, or NCSAs. They also provide funding for travel to and from the activities.

LIFT is the program that provides financial assistance for any non-flight CSA or NCSA.

To qualify for TOP and LIFT the activity must be accredited as a national activity, listed on the NCSA webpage. Both of these programs are needs-based programs, and they operate on a hierarchy system similar to CEAP. The specific criteria can be found right in the application in eServices. Cadets are encouraged to apply early, even before they have officially received a slot in the activity.

Cadets will apply for both programs through CadetInvest in eServices.

Flight Scholarships & Cadet Wings

We have already discussed flight scholarships and Cadet Wings, both which are considered CadetInvest programs.



College Scholarships

CAP assists cadets in reaching their academic goals through college scholarships. There are a variety of scholarships, each serving its own niche and having unique prerequisites.

One scholarship-like program that deserves special mention is CAP's program with the USAF Academy Preparatory School. Students who complete the Prep School will enter the Academy the following year. The Prep School holds at least one slot for a CAP cadet each year, but in most years, they usually offer admission to multiple CAP cadets. The bottom line is that any cadet who aspires to an Air Force Academy appointment ought to apply for CAP's USAFA Prep School program.

Most scholarship programs are announced in the fall for the coming summer or coming school year, and they accept applications in December and January.

For details see gocivilairpatrol.com/CadetInvest



Cadet Competition

1 min

National Cadet Competition showcases the full range of challenges in cadet life experienced at the squadron-level and new areas of learning that are important to America. Teams consisting of six cadets each compete in the arenas of leadership, aerospace, fitness and character. Cadets compete in physical challenges, test their knowledge of aviation and leadership, demonstrate the highest levels of precision and teamwork in posting the colors, and above all, cheer each other on in the spirit of teamwork. You get started by competing at the wing level.

Mention basic facts about the specific wing competition (dates, location).

For more information, see gocivilairpatrol.com/ncc.



Cyber Defense

2 min

America is facing an urgent national need for cyber defense professionals in both the military and commercial sectors. Air Force doctrine now acknowledges cyber as a unique domain of its own, on par with air and space. CAP has a number of curricular resources for cyber defense education.

Cyber Patriot

One program that can amplify that learning and really motivate the cadets is the competition known as Cyber Patriot. Participants learn how to "defend" a computer network from attack. In the process, the cadets explore lucrative careers in this growing profession.

To get your squadron involved, you don't need to be a computer expert. Cadets can form a team under the guidance of an "ordinary" adult possessing no prior computer experience. The

program launches every fall. In addition, NHQ pays for the registration for summer AFA Cyber Patriot Camps. If squadrons/wings or regions choose to participate in the week-long, half-day preparatory camps, run locally, during the weeks selected by NHQ, there is no cost to register with AFA.

Cyber Academies

There are a couple of Cyber academies that are available to cadets. These programs typically are in the summer, with a 1–2-week structure. Some can be found as part of the NCSA offerings, others are hosted locally.

Self-Paced Cyber Courses

CAP has partnered with Cisco Networking Academy to make cybersecurity support, training, and curriculum resources available for free to both cadets and seniors. This course is self-paced, but units can work on the course together.

For more information on cyber programs, visit <https://cyber.cap.gov/>



Cadet Advisory Council

1 min

When cadets become adults, their days practicing leadership by marching in parades is probably over, but they'll serve on innumerable committees – at work, through the homeowner's association, at their church, or in civic groups. The CAC trains cadets in that special type of leadership called committee work. They learn how to deliberate, how to work constructively, how to harness the ideas of many and produce workable solutions to complex problems. This type of leadership training is somewhat advanced, so the CAC serves cadet officers primarily. Your squadron is entitled to have two cadets, a primary and an assistant, participate in the CAC program. If you don't have any cadets near the Mitchell or higher, you can wait until next year. CAC runs concurrent with the fiscal year, beginning each October.

Mention local practices regarding CAC appointments and meeting locations or teleconference systems.



Special Activities Available in Your Wing

3 min

Take a moment to discuss any special cadet programs unique to your wing.



Q&A Discussion

24 min

You've now heard a synopsis of about a dozen special programs and activities. With our remaining time, let's backtrack and discuss a few of those activities and programs in depth, based on your interests.

The slide displays the possible topics. I ask you to choose three topics that interest you. We'll vote and then discuss the #1 most popular topic, followed by the #2 topic, and so on until time expires. Again, vote only 3 times. This is an honor system.

Call out each topic listed on the slide one at a time, count and record the votes for that topic, and then move on to the next topic on the list. Tally the votes to set your discussion priorities accordingly.

Be ready to discuss any of the lesson's topics in greater depth. It will be helpful to know if any of your colleagues are experts about flight academies or NCC or CAC or the other topics, etc., so that you can turn to them for help.



Conclusion

1 min

There are so many incredible special activities and programs available to cadets beyond their weekly squadron meetings. We've covered a lot of ground in the past hour. Please remember our three emphasis items.

Cadet Wings, our newest diamond for cadet programs

Cyber Education via external partnerships with AFA and CISCO

There are many opportunities for personal development and funding to get to everything from encampment to cockpits.