



**TRAINING LEADERS** *of* **CADETS**  
INTERMEDIATE COURSE  
**LESSON PLAN**

### 4.1 Cadet Activities II

- VERSION:** December 2016 *please verify this is the latest version by visiting [capmembers.com/TLC](http://capmembers.com/TLC)*
- DURATION:** 50 minutes approximately, and subtopic times shown in margins below are also approximate
- INSTRUCTOR:** A master-rated cadet programs officer or highly experienced CC or DCC 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 Wreaths Across America program (goals, process, benefits to squadron)
  3. Recall basic information about the Cadet Encampment Assistance Program (goals, application process, types of assistance available)
  4. Recall basic information about the Cyber Patriot program (goals, ways to get started, process)
  5. Identify where NCSA and scholarship information is located and describe the typical annual deadlines and the application process
- SIMPLE OUTLINE:**
1. Starter, Overview & Time Warning
  2. Basic Program Information
    - a. Wreaths Across America
    - b. Encampment
    - c. Cadet Special Activities
    - d. National Cadet Special Activities
    - e. International Air Cadet Exchange
    - f. Flight Academies
    - g. College & Flight Scholarships
    - h. Cadet Competition
    - i. Cyber Patriot
    - j. Cadet Advisory Council
    - k. Special Wing Events
  3. Detailed Discussion on Selected Topics
  4. Conclusion





## Wreaths Across America

3 min

Wreaths is a service learning 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 veterans 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.

Cadets wear their uniforms and render hand salutes when placing wreaths, so the program incorporates some drill and ceremonies aspects.

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 [capmembers.com/wreaths](http://capmembers.com/wreaths).



## Encampment & CEAP

3 min

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 helps disadvantaged cadets with their tuition and uniform expenses. Families apply through eServices in the spring for summer encampments and in fall for encampments conducted over the holiday season.

Unit commanders validate the family's request; if the surgeon's or lawyer's kid is applying, disapprove the application and explain to the family that CEAP is for disadvantaged youth. CEAP information is confidential, so fellow cadets won't know how a CEAP cadet's tuition is being paid.

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.

Note that we are not discussing encampment operations and program management; that topic is covered during TLC Advanced.

For more information, see [capmembers.com/ceap](http://capmembers.com/ceap).



## Cadet Special Activities

2 min

Through Cadet Special Activities, cadets explore careers and develop leadership skills. The CSA program is geared for cadets who have completed an encampment and are in their second year and beyond, and the minimum age tends to be about 14. Activities are sanctioned by NHQ but and operated by a wing or region. Each contains at least 40 contact hours, so is about a week long. Admission tends to be moderately competitive. They primarily serve cadets within the host region or wing but are open to people from across the nation. Most programs kick-off each December, with cadets applying in December and January for the following summer. Of course, there are opportunities for senior members to serve as instructors and support staff.



## National Cadet Special Activities

3 min

Through National Cadet Special Activities, cadets explore careers and develop leadership skills. The NCSA program is geared for cadets who have completed an encampment and are in their second year and beyond. The minimum age tends to be 15 or 16, about a year or two older than most CSAs. Activities are managed by and operated by NHQ. Each is 1 to 2 weeks in duration. Admission is moderately competitive for some activities, but highly competitive for others, and cadets compete for slots from across the nation. Most programs kick-off each December, with cadets applying in December and January for the following summer, but there are a couple activities that kick-off in the fall and occur in the winter.

As with CSAs, we want every squadron to take 15 minutes in December and do a "commercial" for the following summer's CSAs and NCSAs.

There are opportunities for senior members to serve as instructors and support staff.

Note that we are not discussing the slotting process here; that topic is covered in TLC Advanced.

*Visit [ncsas.com](http://ncsas.com) and call out the names of some of the activities to give students a feel for the program's offerings.*

For more information, see [ncsas.com](http://ncsas.com).



## International Air Cadet Exchange

2 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, and a small number of adult escorts are needed. 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](http://ncsas.com).



## Flight Academies

2 min

There's nothing cooler than being able to say you flew solo before having a driver's license. CAP operates a number of powered and glider flight academies across the nation each summer. Each is about a week long and is designed to train a cadet who begins with only basic aviation knowledge learned through Aerospace Dimensions and make him or her ready to fly a supervised solo or possibly an authentic solo by week's end. By law, students in powered aircraft must be 16, but for gliders cadets can be 14. While these academies cost more than most cadet activities and average \$800 to \$1200, CAP subsidizes them to keep costs lower than what ordinary youth would pay on the economy. Of course, there's always a need for CFIs and other adults to volunteer their time. Applications are handled through the NCSA process. For more information see [ncsas.com](http://ncsas.com).



## College and Flight Scholarships

2 min

CAP assists cadets in reaching their academic and flight training goals through a college and flight scholarship program. There are a variety of scholarships, each serving its own niche and having unique prerequisites. The college scholarships can serve cadets attending any school and pursuing any major. The flight scholarships mostly serve cadets trying to attain solo, either on their own or through a flight academy. A limited number of private pilot scholarships are also available.

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 go beyond that commitment and 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 [capmembers.com/scholarships](http://capmembers.com/scholarships).



## Cadet Competition

2 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 wing competition (dates, location).* For more information, see [capmembers.com/ncc](http://capmembers.com/ncc).

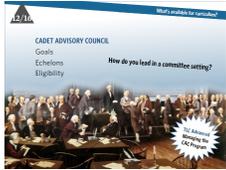


## Cyber Patriot

3 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, and 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. For more information see [capmembers.com/cyber](http://capmembers.com/cyber).



## Cadet Advisory Council

2 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 - Preparation

2 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.*



## Q&A Discussion - Execution

15-20 min

*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

2 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.

Wreaths Across America is a great service project, fundraiser, and recruiting tool.

The Cadet Encampment Assistance Program makes it easy for disadvantaged cadets to participate in encampment; inability to pay should not keep a cadet from attending encampment.

Our nation is facing a no-kidding, urgent national need for cyber defense professionals. Through the Cyber Patriot program, you can introduce cadets to that field while providing some exciting hands-on activities.