

MER-NC-019 Asheville Composite Squadron Hosts AE Outreach Events

The CAP Asheville Composite Squadron soared in their community this summer while hosting two exciting Aerospace Education events at their North Carolina facility. The groups, comprised of about one hundred children each, were from the Buncombe County Cub Scouts summer camping program and from the summer program at the YMCA of Western NC. Each group's camp theme involved learning about the history and physics of flight, so CAP was a natural volunteer group to provide educational and fun learning experiences.



The squadron's cadets and senior members joined hands to provide three areas of instruction that captured the campers' interest with great enthusiasm:

- 1- Tour of the CAP Cessna aircraft in the hangar—including the chance to sit in the cockpit and manipulate the yoke



- 2- A slide presentation on how airplanes get lift and early attempts to fly



- 3- The "airplane toss," which used balsa wood aircraft to determine what variables affect flight



Success was the outcome of these events as noted by the Squadron Commander, Maj Charles Parker; Unit Asst PAO, Capt William Wallace; and Unit AEO, Maj Jim McNab. Positive comments from both camp leaders affirmed the success of the program and both desire to replicate these events in the future.

- "The Scouts enjoyed every bit of it. Their favorite parts were "sitting in the plane, tossing planes, seeing silly people try to fly on the video, and watching other planes land and takeoff ([at the Asheville Regional Airport). I explained that what they touched, saw and learned is part of a new requirement in their Cub Scout Program that just started June 1, 2015. All their eyes opened wide and I heard one scout say he was going to ask his mom for his new handbook. Thank you so much to the cadets and the pilots who opened up a new door for the boys. I will pass your info throughout the scouting community." *Buncombe County Cub Scout Troop Leader, Erick Johanson*
- "We had a great experience with your organization, and I'd love to pursue this into the school year--for our afterschool program. It's very exciting stuff and aligns nicely with our association's core values. Feel free to post the pictures." *YMCA of Western NC Project Manager, Will Deter*

Submitted by: Capt William Wallace, Asheville Composite Squadron, Asst Public Affairs Officer