



# **Air & Space Forces Association and Civil Air Patrol**

**Opportunities for Collaboration**

**Susan Mallett Civil Air Patrol National HQ  
Maxwell AFB, AL  
Education Outreach and AFA Programs Liaison  
[afa@capnhq.gov](mailto:afa@capnhq.gov)**



Civil Air Patrol → an AFA Partner!



**As the Auxiliary of the USAF, CAP is a force multiplier for the Air Force, but for the AFA, as well.**

**Adult and cadet CAP members would be excellent members of AFA chapters – OR, support for any AFA event.**

**CAP Emergency Services, Cadet Programs (for ages 12 and above), and Aerospace Education missions involve CAP resources ready to support the AFA.**

Aerospace/STEM Education Partners for the Future

# AFA & CAP Collaborative Opportunities



**Using a dedicated website for AFA and CAP collaborative opportunities, chapters can determine what works best to help build a relationship with the closest CAP squadron(s).**

**Click the link at the bottom of each page to find the information you need.**



## Aerospace/STEM Education Partners for the Future

The [Air & Space Forces Association](#) has long supported the Civil Air Patrol, the official Auxiliary of the United States Air Force. The missions of both organizations include the need to educate the general public about the importance of aerospace power, both now and in the future. Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education initiatives are paramount in fulfilling this mission, and both the AFA and CAP provide a multitude of K-12 STEM opportunities for young people.

CAP and AFA agree: producing patriotic and technologically-prepared future citizens is of prime importance in maintaining global competitiveness and national security.

The two organizations have joined hands to collaborate, join each other's organization, leverage resources, and work toward the same goal of preparing to defend our nation with the strength of air, space, and cyber power. Specifically, each organization brings unique alliance contributions.

[What Does the Air & Space Forces Association Do for CAP?](#)

[What Does CAP Do for the AFA?](#)



Need info? Contact [afa@capnhq.gov](mailto:afa@capnhq.gov)

[AFA & Civil Air Patrol Partnership \(gocivilairpatrol.com\)](http://gocivilairpatrol.com)

# WHAT DOES THE AFA DO FOR CAP?



Aerospace/STEM Education Partners for the Future

## WHAT DOES THE AFA DO FOR CAP?



### Aerospace/STEM Education Partners for the Future

For many years, the Air & Space Forces Association has recognized the significant aerospace/STEM contributions of Civil Air Patrol to our nation. In an effort to demonstrate the esteem AFA holds for the work CAP volunteer members accomplish throughout our country, the AFA provides Aerospace Education grants and awards for CAP's units and their cadet/youth members. Each partnership program is explained in the bold link for each area below.

- [AFA'S NATIONAL CAP AEROSPACE EDUCATION CADET OF THE YEAR AWARD](#) (follows CAP awards timeline)
- [AFA'S CAP UNIT OUTSTANDING CADET OF THE YEAR RECOGNITION](#) (submit squadron request between 1 Dec- 15 Jan annually)
- [AFA'S CAP UNIT AE GRANT](#) (Full funding restored for units to apply in June and December.)
  - Part of this unit grant program involves AFA funding for annual [National CAP High-Altitude Balloon Challenge for Cadets](#) award grants and for annual [CAP Aerospace Connections in Education \(ACE\) program](#) award grants.
- [AFA'S CYBERPATRIOT PROGRAM](#) for CAP squadron participation
- [AFA'S STELLARXPLORERS PROGRAM](#) for CAP squadron participation

For more information, contact [afa@capnhq.gov](mailto:afa@capnhq.gov).

#### NOTES:

In addition to the programs above, an AFA representative annually attends CAP's National Summer Conference to recognize CAP's Senior Member of the Year and CAP's Cadet of the Year, each with a special plaque.

*CAP members who wish to take advantage of the AFA's offer of a **free 2-year e-membership in the AFA** can join by clicking [HERE](#).*

*Civil Air Patrol expresses sincere appreciation for all the Air & Space Forces Association does to educate, advocate, and support the Aerospace/STEM Education mission for our nation.*

[What Does The AFA Do For CAP? | \(gocivilairpatrol.com\)](http://gocivilairpatrol.com)

## AFA NATIONAL CAP AE CADET OF THE YEAR AWARD



Aerospace/STEM Education Partners for the Future

The Air & Space Forces Association's  
National CAP Aerospace Education Cadet of the Year Award

[Click HERE](#) for all information and CAPF 50-4 Nomination

For more information, contact [afa@capnhq.gov](mailto:afa@capnhq.gov).

### 2023 National Winner

Cadet Major Annika Santhanam, NER-NJ-102 Captain Bud Jackson Composite Squadron



*Cadet Santhanam Award Presentation with Jim Simons, AFA Vice Chair/Field, and Col Joe Abegg, AFA NJ State President and CAP NJ Legislative Squadron Commander (red tie)*

Wing and Region Nominees can be recognized at any time by the wing and/or region as the nominee for this national award. A fillable, downloadable certificate for each level is available for use in a presentation (if the wing or region does not have other certificates of recognition to use).

[Wing Nominee Certificate](#)

[Region Nominee Certificate](#)

**Award presented at  
the AFA national  
convention or the  
CAP national  
conference**

[AFA National CAP Cadet of the Year Award | \(gocivilairpatrol.com\)](http://gocivilairpatrol.com)

# AFA Chapters Can Present Squadron Awards

## AFA'S CAP OUTSTANDING SQUADRON CADET RECOGNITION



Aerospace/STEM Education Partners for the Future

*The Air & Space Forces Association Education Division Recognizes Outstanding CAP Cadets with the "Civil Air Patrol Outstanding Squadron Cadet of the Year Award"*

The AFA is proud to support the accomplishments of cadets at the grassroots level with a [CAP cadet award package](#) that includes a silver medal accompanied by a sky-blue ribbon and a downloadable certificate.

Each year, between 1 December and 15 January, each squadron may submit a request to [afa@capnhq.gov](mailto:afa@capnhq.gov) for an award package to present to one outstanding cadet. (If late, do not worry, a request will be honored for your squadron.)

**NOTE: The award will be for the year in which the January date falls.**  
See list of squadrons having requested and presented the 2024 award, [HERE](#).

- Info about this award is found on the AFA Cadet of the Year Awards page [HERE](#).
- Info about this award is also found on the CAP Cadet Programs Individual Cadet Award page [HERE](#).

Questions? Contact [afa@capnhq.gov](mailto:afa@capnhq.gov).

**NOTE: The certificate (below) has been updated to reflect the new AFA name and logo - The Air & Space Forces Association.**



### Presentations During the COVID Pandemic



[2023 Squadron Awards Sent](#)

[2022 Squadron Awards Sent](#)

[2021 Squadron Awards Sent](#)

[AFA's CAP Outstanding Squadron Cadet Award | \(gocivilairpatrol.com\)](http://gocivilairpatrol.com)

## AFA GRANTS FOR CAP UNITS



Aerospace/STEM Education Partners for the Future

### CAP UNIT GRANTS

Funded by the Air & Space Forces Association

*FULL GRANT FUNDING is being provided for 2024 by the AFA. CAP will be providing grants in both the Summer (end of June deadline) and Winter (end of December deadline) cycles! CAP appreciates the support of the AFA to provide funding for CAP Unit grants!*



*CAP unit grants are recognized in memory of BG Scott Van Cleef, former AFA Chairman of the Board, and CAP Commander & AEO of MAR-VA-048, Roanoke Composite Squadron, who passed away 18 July 2021.*

- Just before his passing, Commander Van Cleef submitted an exemplary AFA Grant for CAP Units proposal which was selected for funding ([HERE](#)); an excellent example of a well-written grant proposal.

Grants have continued to support CAP units...

- [Video of observatory field trip by PR cadets, thanks to a AFA Grant for CAP Units!](#)

#### Related Documents

- [AFA Grant Application for CAP Units](#)
- [AFA Grant After-Action Report Form for CAP Units](#)



#### The requirements and selection criteria for the AFA Grants for Civil Air Patrol Units are as follows:

- Unit AEOs should apply for a grant using the grant application (found in the top right-hand corner of this page) at any time before the end of the grant cycles (30 June; 31 December).
- Applications should be filled out completely and sent to [afa@capnhq.gov](mailto:afa@capnhq.gov).
- Grants cannot exceed \$250.00 per request.
- Grants must be used for aerospace/STEM education-related items/activities such as books, CDs, equipment, or aerospace-oriented field trips, projects, programs, and events for the cadets and for external programs supported by the squadron.

[AFA Grants for CAP Units | \(gocivilairpatrol.com\)](http://gocivilairpatrol.com)



Part of the AFA unit grant program involves AFA funding for CAP programs:

- annual [National CAP High-Altitude Balloon Challenge for Cadets](#) award grants; and
- for annual [CAP Aerospace Connections in Education \(ACE\) program](#) award grants

## CYBERPATRIOT

Civil Air Patrol has been patrolling our nation's coastal borders from the air since CAP's inception.

Today, the coastlines are borderless with the onset of cyber vulnerability and attacks. CAP is developing and participating in innovative and challenging Cyber programs.

- Check out [CAP's Cyber page for cadets](#).

CAP cadets are also participating in a challenging technological initiative, CyberPatriot, the National Youth Cyber Education Program, sponsored by the [Air & Space Forces Association](#), to educate the next generation of patriotic cyber defenders of our nation's security and infrastructure.

This highly competitive event is training a new generation to ensure America is prepared to defend its national security from the air, land, sea, space, and cyberspace. CAP continues to be a strong All Service and Middle School organizational participant in the CyberPatriot program and encourages educators and youth leaders to form Middle School and Open Division CyberPatriot teams!

CAP cadets: Learn more about how to form a CAP squadron team, below.

Educators: Find out how to create student teams at [www.uscyberpatriot.org](http://www.uscyberpatriot.org).



[gocivilairpatrol.com](http://gocivilairpatrol.com) | [www.uscyberpatriot.org](http://www.uscyberpatriot.org)

## SYSTEMS TOOL KIT & AFA'S STELLARXPLORERS

Ansys STK is a software tool that allows engineers and scientists to design and develop complex dynamic simulations of real-world problems, especially those relating to satellites, spacecraft, and aircraft. Through CAP's partnership with [Ansys Government Initiatives](#), the makers of STK, cadets are invited to test-fly this state-of-the-art technology.

STK is a fantastic aerospace/STEM activity for cadets, students, and adults!



In association with STK, the [Air & Space Forces Association \(AFA\)](#) has an exciting and challenging national competition that involves the use of STK. [StellarXplorers \(STLX\)](#) is a dynamic program and competition available to ANY high school team from schools, youth organizations, JROTC, OR CAP! The program leads to a national finals competition held each spring.

[Systems Tool Kit / StellarXplorers | \(gocivilairpatrol.com\)](http://gocivilairpatrol.com)

# WHAT DOES CAP DO FOR THE AFA?



Aerospace/STEM Education Partners for the Future

## WHAT DOES CAP DO FOR AFA?



### Aerospace/STEM Education Partners for the Future

CAP adult, educator, and cadet members are encouraged to join their local AFA Chapter. CAP members, go to [local AFA chapter locations](#) to find nearby chapters. Find out about AFA's [membership information](#).

If CAP members cannot be an active AFA chapter member, they can join as an unaffiliated eMember with the free 2-year CAP e-Membership option, click [HERE](#).

CAP offers any AFA member who is not already a member of CAP the opportunity to become a free "Friend of CAP." This is not a membership, but, rather, an opportunity to keep up with CAP news and events of our great organization's missions for America.

- The "Friends of CAP" link is found [HERE](#), and includes all "Friends" benefits. (There should be a special section mid-page that allows an AFA member to click on "Friends of CAP-AFA" for the free association with CAP. If you cannot locate that link, contact [Development@capnhq.gov](mailto:Development@capnhq.gov) for assistance.)

If an AFA member decides to become a squadron or educator member of CAP in the future, CAP membership info is found at the JOIN button at the top of [www.GoCivilAirPatrol.com](http://www.GoCivilAirPatrol.com).

The AFA's AE mission mirrors that of CAP. Both organizations promote aerospace/STEM education to the general public in an effort to prepare for future national security of America. Thus, in an effort to assist the AFA in fulfilling its AE mission, and in deep appreciation to the AFA for all the support given to CAP members, CAP provides free programs for AFA chapters to promote STEM Ed in their communities.

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[FREE CAP STEM Programs](#) for AFA Chapters to support local educators

- CAP also promotes and participates in the AFA's [CyberPatriot](#) and [StellarXplorers](#) STEM programs.

CAP also promotes the AFA's [Educator Grant](#) and [Teacher of the Year](#) programs on the [CAP educator grants and awards page](#).

AFA chapters can contact their [closest CAP Volunteer AE leaders/officer](#) to assist the chapter in STEM-related events.

For more information, contact [afa@capnhq.gov](mailto:afa@capnhq.gov).



[What Does CAP Do For AFA? | \(gocivilairpatrol.com\)](http://www.gocivilairpatrol.com)

# FREE CAP AE memberships for each chapter Teacher of the Year (TOY) and for any other teacher a chapter wants to support

## FREE CAP AE MEMBERSHIPS FOR AFA CHAPTER STEM ED OUTREACH



Aerospace/STEM Education Partners for the Future

CAP offers two free [Aerospace Education membership](#) options for AFA chapters to use to promote and perpetuate STEM education in their local communities.

1. Each AFA Chapter Teacher of the Year is provided a complimentary membership to add to other TOY award components.
2. Any educator or youth program leader working with the AFA or attending an AFA teacher workshop can be provided a complimentary AE membership. *(This is intended for educators the chapter can directly support in the classroom or youth program- with a good number of students who will be impacted. This is not to be used for large groups of teachers; just classroom teachers the chapter will actually support.)*

Contact [afa@capnhq.gov](mailto:afa@capnhq.gov) for special free Program Code for each category.

## What is the benefit of AFA chapters offering free CAP Aerospace Education Memberships to local educators?

These free educator membership opportunities provide an *easy and no-cost* manner for AFA chapters to share aerospace education to the public and promote science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) subjects and careers to the youth of America. With [CAP AE memberships](#), educators and leaders of youth organizations are provided **FREE** resources and benefits as described on [CAP's Educators Page](#). Those benefits include:

- over 40 national academic standards-based aerospace education [products](#) available for grades K-12, to include a full color 675-page hard-cover high school aerospace textbook;
- online [AE resources](#) to include satellite imagery, robotics, cyber security, and R/C aircraft programs;
- K-6 Aerospace Connections in Education ([ACE](#)) program (see how AFA chapters can support this program [HERE](#));
  - and the associated "[ACE Plus Adopt](#)" program which can support grades 5-8 (AFA chapter support suggestions [HERE](#))
- K-12 Aerospace Education Excellence ([AEX](#)) Award program;
- Teacher Orientation Program ([TOP](#)) flights at local airports; and
- selection of free K-12 [STEM Kits](#) using astronomy, flight simulators, robotics, rocketry, coding, engineering, weather, unmanned aerial systems, and much more!



AFA Cape Canaveral Chapter 309 use of CAP curriculum to conduct long-distance virtual lesson during COVID-19 about Uncle Wiggly Wings; Col Gail Halvorsen.

## [Free CAP AE Memberships for AFA Chapters | \(CAP\)](#)

## EDUCATORS

> NOTICE: As hybrid learning experiences remain an option for various reasons, check out CAP's Aerospace/STEM Resources for Remote Education page [HERE](#).

Welcome to the Educators Info page! If you are looking for free aerospace/STEM lesson plans, activities, textbooks, products, and programs to use in any classroom or after-school or enrichment program, we hope CAP will have something to help you! Our products and programs, below, can be used across disciplines and in both core and elective studies. Visit the [Aerospace Curriculum Index](#) link [HERE](#).

Civil Air Patrol is using aviation as the theme to propel youth onward and upward in STEM education!

Civil Air Patrol, the Auxiliary of the United States Air Force, is serving communities across America!

- Civil Air Patrol, *Aerospace/STEM Education Programs Investing in the Future!*



Video courtesy of SC Wing Director of AE Capt Robert Roberts' Aerospace Education YouTube channel.



1- **AEM Program:** The Aerospace Education Member (AEM) program is for K-12 formal and informal educators at schools, youth organizations, museums, and libraries. AEMs do not belong to a local CAP squadron, do not wear uniforms, and do not attend squadron meetings. The AEM is a member of the CAP National HQ group, with the NHQ located in Montgomery, AL, at Maxwell Air Force Base. There is a one-time \$35 fee; with free annual renewal.

### EDUCATOR MEMBER JOIN AND RENEW INFO

#### JOIN as an Aerospace Education Member (AEM)

\*\*\* [Join Directly Online](#)

- Preferred; for credit card use; immediate joining option

\*\*\* [Join with Paper Application](#)

- for use when there is an error, or, when schools are paying for membership(s) with a check

#### RENEWAL for AEMs-

**Membership has not expired:**

If membership will expire within the next 60 days, go to the [CAP member portal \(eServices\)](#) page to automatically renew online. (Will need CAP ID# and password to get into eServices.) An automated renewal e-mail should be received 60 days prior to expiration.

#### RENEWAL for AEMs-

**Membership has expired:**

\* If membership expired within the last year, use the Free Renewal form [HERE](#).

\* If membership has been expired more than a year, or you are unsure, please contact [ae@capnhq.gov](mailto:ae@capnhq.gov) for assistance.

# FREE resources for these teachers!

An associated program of the ACE program is the **ACE Plus Adopt program** for 5th-8th grade ACE teachers. CAP squadron adults and cadets are adopting ACE teachers to help teach ACE lessons and more! Find out how you and your students can be adopted [HERE](#). (Contact: [adopt@capnhq.gov](mailto:adopt@capnhq.gov))



3- **Free Teacher Orientation Program (TOP) flights:** Find out how each area of STEM is involved in aviation with a TOP flight! CAP pilots will fly teachers at their closest airport for a great flying experience to share with students. E-mail [ae@capnhq.gov](mailto:ae@capnhq.gov) to request a flight—or, for any questions. (\* Find another teacher to join CAP to fly with you! It is more fun to fly with a friend!)

- To reach out directly to YOUR state's Director of AE to assist you in coordinating your flight, find your contact person [HERE](#).

[Free Educator Member Resources | \(gocivilairpatrol.com\)](http://gocivilairpatrol.com)

## TEACHER ORIENTATION PROGRAM FLIGHTS



TOP Flight Funding: FY24 funding is loaded and every wing can participate in TOP flights.

- For Educator Members: Check with your state's volunteer Director of AE (list found [HERE](#)) to request a TOP flight by telling the DAE where you live in the state. (TOP flights are for an AE member or any squadron member who is an educator.)
- For Wing DAEs: It is imperative that as the PoC for the TOP flight program in your wing you stay in close contact with your Wing DO or designee to ensure all are ready to coordinate flights for the teachers as soon as they request a flight. (Read the [TOP Flight Guide](#) and check out the new [online evaluation link](#) and QR code, below.)
- See TOP flight, COVID-style video [HERE!](#)
- View a TOP flight video with school principal at the controls, and good description of CAP's programs, below.



### Teacher Orientation Program (TOP ) Flight Info for Educators:

One of the most exciting benefits of being a Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Education Member (AEM) or a squadron member who is an educator is the opportunity to take a Teacher Orientation Program (TOP) flight in a CAP airplane, with an experienced CAP pilot, at a local airport. See [TOP Flight story HERE](#).

These teachers can fly over their school; live stream the flight to students; and/or share the flight via video and visit from the pilot.

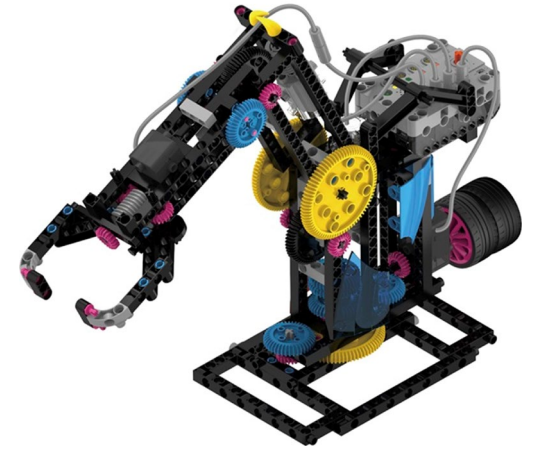
AFA chapters can have their TOY fly OR have a special STEM workshop and have CAP fly the teachers.

[Teacher Orientation Program Flights | \(gocivilairpatrol.com\)](https://gocivilairpatrol.com)

**Over 40 educational  
K-12 products  
online and in print  
available to any  
educator member.**



**[Free CAP Aerospace/STEM products \(gocivilairpatrol.com\)](http://gocivilairpatrol.com)**

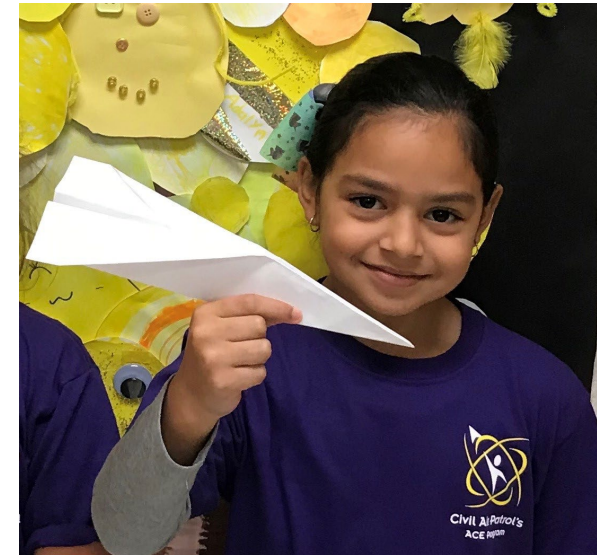
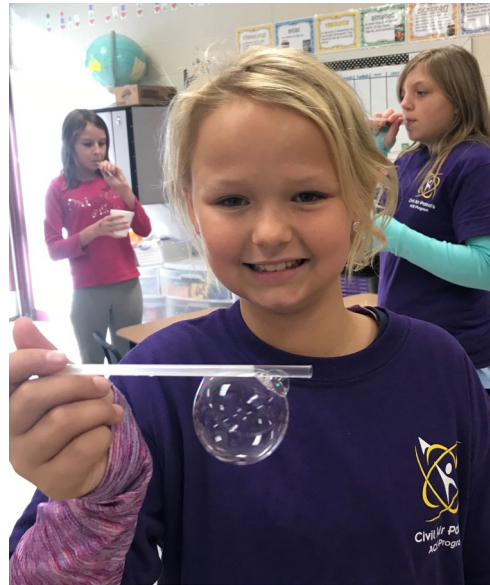


**About 20 FREE STEM Kits from which these teachers can select one at a time to use and keep.**



**[Available Free CAP STEM Kits | \(gocivilairpatrol.com\)](http://gocivilairpatrol.com)**

**The Aerospace Connections in Education (ACE) program is a great program for AFA chapters to support in the classroom!**



[Aerospace Connections In Education | \(gocivilairpatrol.com\)](http://gocivilairpatrol.com)

# AFA Chapters Can Support Teachers in the Community with Any of These FREE CAP Aerospace/STEM Education Resources Through the FREE AE Membership Program for Chapters

## EDUCATORS: JOIN AS A CAP AE MEMBER

Join as an Aerospace Education Member (AEM) of Civil Air Patrol (CAP) and enjoy many free aerospace/STEM educational opportunities ranging from a variety of K-12 curriculum materials and STEM Kits to participating in a teacher orientation flight aboard one of our Cessna aircraft at your local airport. This unique membership category is designed for formal or informal educators involved in promoting aerospace/STEM education in classrooms, homeschools, museums, libraries, or other youth organizations.

To learn more about membership and opportunities available to CAP educator members, check out the full [Educators Page](#).



### EDUCATOR MEMBER JOIN AND RENEW QUICK LINKS

#### JOIN as an Aerospace Education Member (AEM)

\*\*\* [Join Directly Online](#)

- Preferred; for credit card use; immediate joining option

\*\*\* [Join with Paper Application](#)

- for use when there is an error, or, when schools are paying for membership(s) with a check


[Join As An AEM | \(gocivilairpatrol.com\)](http://gocivilairpatrol.com)

**SPECIAL NOTICE** Patrol's National Conference is Aug. 15-17 in San Antonio. Sponsorship opportunities are available. 19: Total lives saved s the Ai

**CIVIL AIR PATROL**  
U.S. AIR FORCE AUXILIARY

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### Serving Communities

Through their experiences as Civil Air Patrol cadets, young people develop into responsible citizens, always ready to join with adult members in helping their neighbors when disaster strikes, on the way to becoming tomorrow's leaders.

Learn More >

I am a Select one GO Find your local squadron Enter Zip Code GO

**CLICK HERE** to find your local squadron. >



Finally, find YOUR closest CAP squadron(s).  
- Enter your ZIP code at [www.GoCivilAirPatrol.com](http://www.GoCivilAirPatrol.com)  
Connect and find ways to collaborate!