CIVIL AIR PATROL CADET PROGRAM

Today’s cadets, tomorrow’s aerospace leaders

OVERVIEW FOR STRATEGIC AUDIENCES
America’s Acute Needs for the Workforce

- Pilots
- Cyber defenders
- STEM professionals
- Young adults who meet military health & character requirements

America’s Enduring Needs

- Commitment to a personal code of honor
- Leadership skills for a diverse, democratic society
- Habit of lifelong exercise

Responsible Citizenship Grounded in:

- America’s Enduring Needs
  - Cyber defenders
  - STEM professionals
  - Young adults who meet military health & character requirements
- America’s Acute Needs
  - Pilots

CIVIL AIR PATROL CADET PROGRAM
To help America meet its needs, we provide a youth-scaled, Air Force-themed extracurricular activity that teens find fun and meaningful.

We offer a safe, positive place to develop leadership skills while exploring aviation and STEM careers.

Vision:
Today’s cadets, tomorrow’s aerospace leaders

Key Traits of Cadet Life
The Uniform Aerospace Theme
Opportunity to Lead Challenge Fun
CIVIL AIR PATROL  
CADET PROGRAM

Cadet life's four content areas

**Leadership**
- Academic study
- Service learning
- Air Force traditions

**Aerospace***
- Academics
- Flying
- Career exploration
  * includes cyber & STEM

**Fitness**
- Academics
- Games & sports
- Presidential Youth Fitness Program

**Character**
- Core Values formation
- Moral reasoning
- Mentoring
27,000 cadets aged 12-20
1,000 hometown squadrons
6,500 trained adult volunteer mentors
$5M direct USAF investment
Financial aid: CEAP, YAI
$200 to $500 est. annual family costs

2 hrs “Tuesday night” or “after school” on campus
One “Saturday” per month
Week-long encampment
Youth-scaled, Air Force “look and feel”
School & family comes first
No military commitment
Youth safety standards per Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
Cadets rank-up as high as Cadet Colonel by completing one task in each of the four content areas: leadership, aerospace, fitness, & character.*

The uniform and cadet rank structure cause young people to see themselves as **CADETS** - young leaders who are serious about their future.

* Simplified explanation
Great First Year
- Uniform
- Core Values
- STEM Kits
- Orientation Flight
- Encampment
- Healthy Fitness Zone
- Wright Bros. Award

Second Cadet Year +
- Career exploration camps
  - Cyber Defense
  - Aviation Mechanic
  - Pararescue
  - Space Systems
  - Engineering
  - Flight Training

Outcomes
- 82% B’s or better
- 72% interested in military
- 65% interested in aviation
- 80% increase interest in STEM careers
- 60+ pilots licensed annually
- 27,000 flights annually
**Cadet Flight Plan**

**FIRST CADET YEAR**
1. Join CAP  
2. Squadron Meetings  
3. O-Flight  
4. Rank-Up  
5. Encampment

**SECOND CADET YEAR**
6. National Flight Academy  
7. National Cadet Special Activities

**THIRD CADET YEAR & BEYOND**
8. Private Pilot License via Cadet Wings  
9. College or career school  
10. Professional Pilot

**Goal:** Transform 60+ cadets into licensed pilots annually

$10,000 to $15,000 investment per cadet via US Air Force funding  
Cadet flies *(A)* locally, after school or *(B)* in summer at an aviation college  
Still no military obligation
Our Challenges

- Staffing local squadrons with enough high-quality adult role models
- Providing cadets with opportunities to interact with USAF
- Increasing the cadet corps’ racial and gender diversity
- Making cadet life accessible to disadvantaged youth

Contact:
National Cadet Team  cadets@capnhq.gov