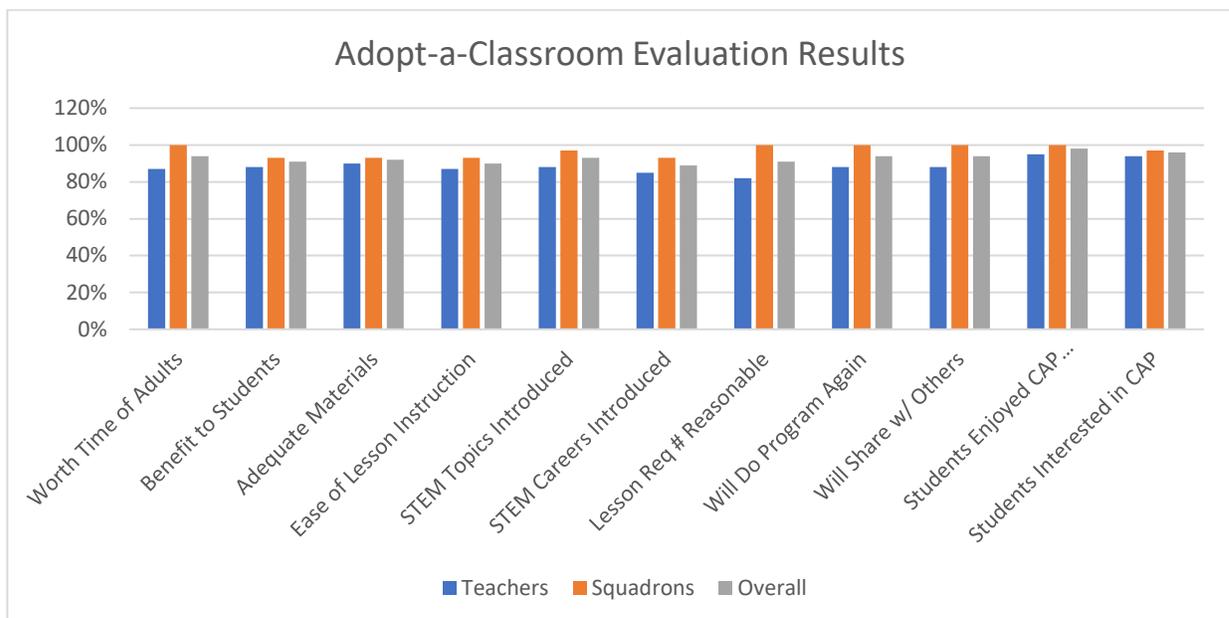


**Civil Air Patrol Inaugural *Adopt-a-Classroom* Program Overview**  
**Debbie Dahl and Susan Mallett, CAP National HQ AE Division**  
**June 11, 2021**

The [CAP Adopt-a-Classroom program](#) officially started in January 2021, the second semester of the academic year for squadron AEOs and cadets to support teachers' classrooms to introduce STEM concepts and careers, as well as CAP as an organization and the CAP Cadet Program to diverse youth, preferably in Title I schools.

- 1- The program's ambassadors were identified, Col Brain Schmuck, KY Wing Commander, and Cadet 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Rylee Schmuck of INWG's River City Composite Squadron, with an ["Adopt" intro video](#) made and placed on the [SCWG Aerospace Education YouTube channel](#) to share the ease and benefits of the program.
- 2- The [program's Guidebook](#), with links to all lessons and activities, was developed and placed on the [newly-created Adopt website](#) to ensure all information was clearly delineated for both AEO and AEM participants.
- 3- The program's graphic and logo was developed working with CAP MAC, and the program was announced to AEOs and AEMs via assistance from MAC and the AE team:
  - [December '20 CAP.NEWS article](#);
  - [Aerospace Education YouTube channel Adopt-a-Classroom Ambassadors intro video](#);
  - [CAP AE Facebook page](#) posts;
  - monthly AE Newsletters in [December '20](#), and '21 [January](#), [February](#), and [March](#) issues;
  - [Spring CAP Volunteer magazine article](#); and
  - e-mail notices to Region DCS/AEs → Wing DAEs → to squadron AEOs.
- 4- A goal of the program was to have all regions and 50% of the wings involved in the program.
  - All 8 CAP regions became involved with 22 wings that had collaboration requests between 30 squadrons and 47 teachers' classrooms in 33 schools; 64% of which were Title 1 schools.
  - All program materials and ACE shirts were shipped to all registered collaborative teams.
- 5- In an effort to increase diversity of young people being introduced to CAP:
  - 2,504 students were involved with 43% minority and 46% female student populations.
- 6- An outcome of the program was that 19% of the students expressed interest in the Cadet Program with 25% of those interested students working to join a local squadron.
- 7- Evaluations were submitted by 35% of the teachers and 25% of the squadrons at the time of this report with differing perspectives of the results of the program by teachers and squadrons, as seen below:



## **10 Factors Affecting Program Outcomes of Collaborative Teams:**

- 1- COVID restrictions limited visitors or # of visitors who could come to the school due to either school restrictions or CAP restrictions for Senior Members and Cadets doing in-person visits.
- 2- Virtual presentations were awkward for some presenters.
- 3- Teachers, although they thought they wanted this support the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of this academic year, became stressed and felt overwhelmed when trying to coordinate visits and fit the extra lessons into their schedules.
- 4- Squadrons had limited human (adult and cadet) resources to support the program due to COVID restrictions and limitations.
- 5- Fifth grade students, and some sixth grade students, were not old enough to actually join a CAP squadron, thus, this limited the # of students who could actually join or pursue membership this year.
- 6- Some AEOs did not follow the program guidelines and, thus, frustrated the teachers in them doing other lessons instead of the assigned lessons.
- 7- Some AEOs did not include cadets which limited the youth-to-youth relationship the program hoped to build with the students.
- 8- Some cadets did not have adequate training and/or preparation to teach the lessons which decreased the effectiveness of the instruction.
- 9- The NHQ Adopt team was unable to get all squadrons to agree to support teachers and all teachers to accept squadrons' assistance in time to allow all teams to be successful.
- 10- Some squadrons and some teachers who requested the program were not actually ever to complete the program due to various reasons as stated above.

## **5 Plans to Improve in the 2021-2022 Academic Year:**

- 1- Start the program in September, with the entire school year to secure adoption collaborations and coordinate school visits and lesson presentations.
- 2- Better guide squadrons to involve and prepare cadets to conduct the required lessons and then add other lessons as the teacher and squadron desires, emphasizing associated aviation-related STEM careers.
- 3- Encourage field trips to the airport, aviation museum, or other aviation location to build a better understanding of aviation, aviation history, and aviation careers.
- 4- Plan an end-of-year celebration to present ACE certificates and have a special speaker to inspire the students.
- 5- Encourage a squadron Open House for interested classroom parents and students.