OUR MISSION
Supporting America’s communities with emergency response, diverse aviation and ground services, youth development, and promotion of air, space and cyber power.

ABOUT CAP
Civil Air Patrol is congressionally chartered and operates as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. CAP performs services for the federal government as the official civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force and for states/local communities as a nonprofit organization. CAP is made up of eight geographic regions consisting of 52 wings (the 50 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia). It is a strategic partner of the Air Force, serving as a member of its Total Force. CAP has three primary missions — Emergency Services, Cadet Programs and Aerospace Education.

Marking its 75th anniversary this year, Cadet Programs can track its beginnings to Oct. 1, 1942 — 10 months after the formation of CAP itself. More than one million cadets have benefited from the Cadet Programs’ leadership, character development, fitness and aerospace/STEM education curriculum.

MEASURING OUR IMPACT
80
 Saves an average of 80 lives per year

560
Operates one of the largest fleets of single-engine piston aircraft in the world, with 560 planes currently in the fleet

56,000
Consists of 1,437 squadrons and approximately 56,000 volunteer youth and adult members nationwide

104,500
Flew over 104,500 hours in 2016

167 million
Contributed nearly $167 million in man-hours in past year, serving the disaster relief and emergency service needs of communities, states and the nation
CADET PROGRAMS

- Attracts nearly 24,000 members ages 12-20.
- Educates youth in four main program areas — leadership, aerospace, fitness and character development.
- Enriches school curricula through after-school programs.
- Offers orientation flights in powered and glider aircraft, as well as flight training scholarships.
- Provides activities and competitions for cadets at the local, state, regional and national levels.
- Presents opportunities for community involvement through emergency service missions and color guard/drift teams.
- Challenges youth to be ambassadors for a drug-free lifestyle.
- Encourages cadets to “ Aim High”; about 10 percent of each U.S. Air Force Academy class is comprised of CAP cadets.
- Allows cadets who have earned the Gen. Billy Mitchell Award the opportunity to enlist in the Air Force at a higher pay grade.
- Participates in the International Air Cadet Exchange program.
- Awards college scholarships in several disciplines.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

- Conducts 90 percent of inland search and rescue in the U.S. as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and other agencies.
- Coordinates Air Force-assigned missions through CAP National Operations Center at Maxwell AFB, Ala., at a cost of $120-$165 per flying hour.
- Trains more than 6,900 aircrew members and over 30,700 emergency responders to FEMA standards.
- Provides 450 chaplains and 500 character development instructors who minister to youth and adult members and help comfort survivors and victims of disasters.
- Performs aerial reconnaissance for homeland security.
- Provides air intercept training, impact assessment, light transport, communications support and low-level route surveys for the Air Force.
- Provides disaster-relief photography and support to local, state and national agencies.
- Transports time-sensitive medical materials, blood products and body tissues when commercial resources are unavailable.
- Assists federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in the War on Drugs.
- Maintains an extensive nationwide VHF and HF communications network.

AEROSPACE EDUCATION

- Educates adult and cadet members and the community on the importance of aerospace.
- Develops, publishes and distributes national academic standards-based science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) aerospace education curricula for kindergarten through college classrooms, affecting about 200,000 K-12 students nationwide.
- Generates interest in STEM careers through aviation, space and technology focused activities and CAP “STEM Kits” associated with astronomy, flight simulations, model and remote-control aircraft, robotics, rocketry, weather, hydraulic engineering and computer programming.
- Provides educators with free educational programs, products and services, including airplane orientation flights.
- Offers grant and college credit opportunities for adult and teacher members.
- Provides aerospace support for educational conferences and workshops nationwide.