



CIVIL AIR PATROL United States Air Force Auxiliary

CADET ENCAMPMENT PROGRAM

C2 The Core Values

Briefing for the Guest Speaker

Date & Time of Talk:

Location:

Arrival Time:

Point of Contact:

Cell Phone:

Email:

Thank you for volunteering to support Civil Air Patrol cadets. You're going to have fun interacting with the cadets because this group is bright, enthusiastic, and possesses a seriousness of purpose that you won't find among an ordinary group of young people.

Overall Goal: As a result of this session, cadets should reaffirm their personal commitment to the USAF / CAP Core Values. By interacting with you, a compelling role model, we want cadets to gain a deeper appreciation for why the Core Values are important to their success as aspiring young leaders, and perhaps gain practical insight on how to live up to that code of honor, no matter where life takes them.

Suggested Duration: 30 min

Audience. Teenaged cadets enrolled in the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program, a youth activity imparting leadership skills in an aerospace-themed environment. The #1 area of interest for cadets is aviation or aerospace. Their #2 area of interest is military service and leadership in general. Your CAP point of contact will tell you how many cadets will be in attendance.

Background. Cadets arrive at their annual encampment with a basic knowledge of the Air Force Core Values. They can name the Core Values and perhaps explain why they matter "according to the book," but they don't truly *know* the Core Values and might be skeptical that "real leaders" pay them any attention.

Suggested Format. Cadets relate best to specific examples, not abstract concepts. Speak anecdotally. Use your life experiences to convey a personal perspective about the Core Values. Have some questions prepared to direct to the audience and/or allow time for the cadets to pose questions to you. A back-and-forth discussion is better than a lecture.

CAP's Spin on the USAF Core Values. CAP slightly adjusts the Air Force Core Values. "Service Before Self" is presented as "Volunteer Service." It's the same underlying value, with an extra nod to the fact that CAP members are (unpaid) volunteers. Also, CAP adds a fourth Core Value, "Respect." Of course, Air Force doctrine teaches that "Integrity First" encompasses a duty to treat other persons respectfully . . . just be aware that CAP pulls respect for human dignity out from integrity and has it stand on its own.

For Speakers Who Are Not of the US Air Force. One does not need Air Force experience to impart lessons about Integrity, Service, Excellence, and Respect. Please be mindful that CAP uses those four particular values as vehicles for talking about a personal sense of honor. If you have your own ethical code, or if your organization has its own core values, feel free to use them as the basis for your discussion. What matters most is the cadets internalize the principle that character counts.

Audio Visual Support. Your CAP point of contact will tell you what A/V support is available.

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Suggested Topics to Help You Get Started

There are lots of great ways to talk with young people about the Core Values. What follows is a list of starter questions that may be useful in your preparations. *You're free to use all, some, or none of these questions.* You're the "star of the show," and you're free to put your own personal spin on the Core Values as you interact with the cadets.

- What are the Core Values trying to do?
- Are the Core Values just "something you learn in basic training / officer accessions" or are they actually used in the "real" Air Force?
- Have the Core Values ever provided you with a roadmap out of a period of adversity? Can you relate a story from your life experience?
- Is there a connection between the Core Values and leadership? Could a person be an effective leader if he or she fails to abide by them?
- What is the hardest, most challenging Core Value to uphold? Why?
- Sometimes it seems that the people who cheat on the Core Values get ahead. How do you cope with that frustration? Do the good guys always win in the end?
- Do the Core Values ever come into conflict? Does Integrity's demands, for example, ever butt-up against Excellence, and if so, what do you do to resolve the apparent dilemma?
- Some leaders say the key to not compromising your Core Values is to avoid situations that would place you in the vicinity of temptation. Do you agree with that? How do you do that?
- No one is perfect, so what if you fail to uphold a Core Value? What happens next? What should you do?
- Once someone completes training in the Core Values, does that make them an expert? Do senior leaders such as yourself ever stop learning about the Core Values?
- What if you have a particular religious faith, do the Core Values still "work"? Or what if you have no religious belief at all, do the Core Values still work?
- Why *these* Core Values?