



CIVIL AIR PATROL  
**CADET PROGRAM  
FUNDAMENTALS**

**Training Leaders of Cadets**  
Seminar F1  
Online / Self-Study Module

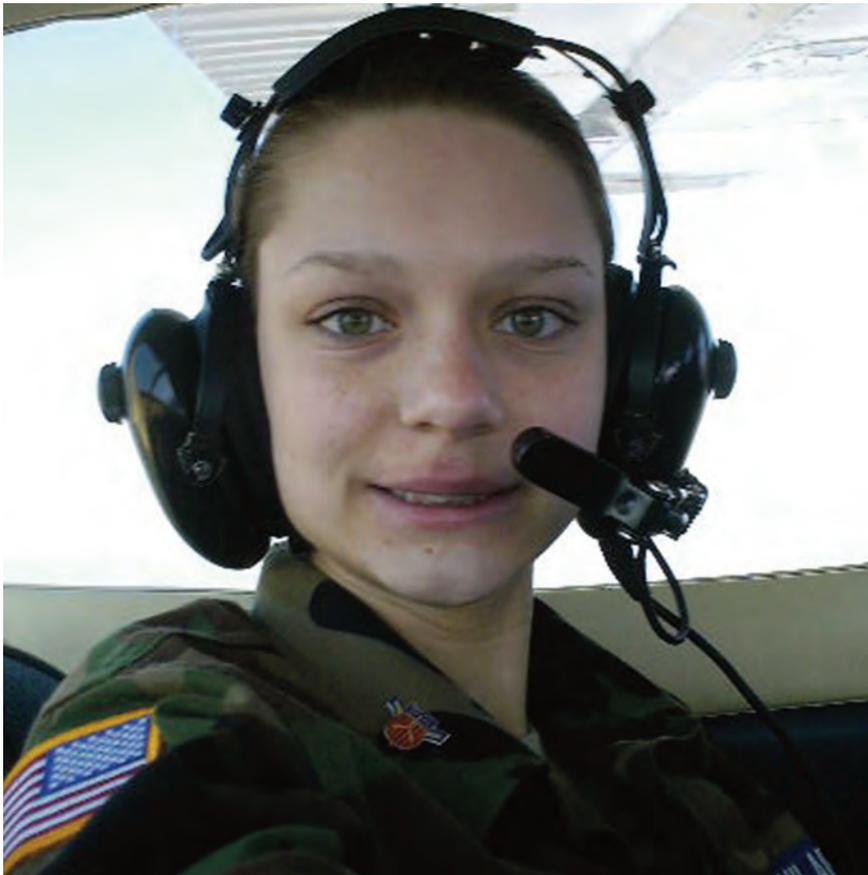
### Learning Goals:

*Appreciate what the Cadet Program does for youth and for America*

*Describe how the Cadet Program is structured*

*Give examples of cadet activities and the staples of cadet life*

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### Today's Cadets . . .

#### Tomorrow's Aerospace Leaders

Astronaut Eric Boe piloted the Space Shuttle *Endeavour*. Nicole Malachowski was the first woman to fly for the Air Force Thunderbirds. Both are former cadets, and both credit CAP with helping them achieve their dreams.

Today's cadets are tomorrow's aerospace leaders. Through its Cadet Program, Civil Air Patrol transforms youth aged 12-20 into responsible citizens.

Most cadets experience CAP by joining a community-based squadron that meets for 2½ hours, one night per week. A growing number of cadets experience CAP as a school-sponsored activity.



## A Multi-Faceted Program for Youth

Cadet life is centered around four main program elements:

**Leadership:** CAP develops young people into leaders. Through classroom instruction, self-paced study, and a laboratory of hands-on learning, cadets develop leadership skills. New cadets first learn to follow, while advanced cadets learn to lead the team. Cadet officers take great pride in having a sense of ownership over their program as they mentor junior cadets. Air Force traditions such as the uniform, the salute, and drill and ceremonies challenge cadets to emulate the professionalism of Air Force officers.

**Aerospace:** CAP inspires in youth a love of aviation, space, and technology. Through classroom instruction, self-paced study, and hands-on projects, cadets learn about the science that makes flight possible. Best of all, through orientation flights in CAP aircraft, cadets experience firsthand the thrill of aviation. Cadets also have opportunities to explore aerospace careers through field trips, encampments, and national cadet special activities.

**Fitness:** CAP encourages cadets to develop a lifelong habit of regular exercise. The Cadet Program promotes fitness through calisthenics, hiking, rappelling, volleyball, and more. At a time when many youth are obese, cadets discover the connection between staying fit and having the energy needed to achieve their goals. Their commitment to fitness is measured through a performance test modeled on "The President's Challenge."

**Character:** CAP challenges cadets to live their Core Values of integrity, volunteer service, excellence, and respect. Through character development forums, cadets wrestle with ethical issues relevant to teens, with the overall goal being that they develop moral reasoning skills. Mentoring programs connect new cadets to experienced cadets, CAP senior members, and Air Force Reservists. Finally, through Drug Demand Reduction activities, CAP challenges cadets to be ambassadors of a drug-free lifestyle.

A fifth program element - **Activities** - unifies the four main elements. Through cadet activities such as flying, leadership academies, bivouacs, field trips, and more, cadets apply what they have learned in the four main program elements and display their enthusiasm for the cadet ethic.



## The Challenge & Excitement of Cadet Life

Surveys tell us that the #1 reason cadets join CAP is that they want to fly. Coming in a close second is their interest in the military. Those two themes – aviation and the military – should be visible in all aspects of cadet life, motivating the cadets to continue in the CAP program.

As a CAP senior member, perhaps the best thing you can do for cadets is to put them in the cockpit. Schedule orientation flights regularly; they come at no cost to the cadets or to the pilots. *Fly the cadets, fly the cadets, fly the cadets.* Flying is how CAP keeps cadets motivated, allowing us to be successful at developing their character, fitness, and leadership skills.

Likewise, because an interest in the military is another huge motivator for cadets, it is important for senior members to take seriously the role that uniforms, military courtesies, drill, and the like play in cadet life. Cadets see those aspects of CAP as the special qualities that distinguish them from ordinary youth. They inspire the cadets to strive for excellence.



## Cadet Activities

The weekly squadron meeting is the venue where cadets experience their program the most. Special activities on weekends and in the summer further energize the cadets, but it is the 52 weekly squadron meetings during a cadet's membership year that will have the greatest impact on them.

Weekly meetings are where the squadron provides activities that help the cadet qualify for promotions and advance in the program. Hands-on activities are always preferred to dull lectures. Organizing a successful weekly squadron meeting requires lots of planning and coordination, with the adult and cadet staffs working together.

During their first year in CAP, each cadet should expect to participate in most of the following activities:

- |                     |                                  |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Flying              | Color guards & drill teams       |
| Leadership training | Hiking & camping                 |
| Obstacle courses    | Emergency services               |
| Field trips & tours | Model rocketry                   |
| Teambuilding        | Social events for making friends |

Active squadrons have active, motivated cadets. Every squadron should offer a well-planned, exciting meeting every week, plus at least one special Saturday event per month.

Finally, local leaders should encourage every cadet to attend the annual encampment, which is usually a week-long event held during summer or winter break at a nearby military installation.



## Cadet Advancement

The Cadet Program is organized around a system of 16 achievements and 5 milestone awards. This “path of progression” provides a structure that guides the cadets’ development, matching cadets with activities suited to their longevity and accomplishments in the program. (See chart on next page.)

A spirit of competition motivates cadets as they work to earn promotions, qualify for increased leadership roles in their squadron, and collect awards faster than their fellow cadets.

During each achievement, the cadets are called upon to complete a task in each of the five program elements.\*

**Leadership:** Cadets study a chapter in their leadership book and then must pass a written test.

**Aerospace:** Cadets study a chapter in their aerospace book and then must pass a written test.

**Fitness:** Cadets must perform at a certain level, based on their age, rank, and gender, during a multi-faceted fitness test.

**Character:** Cadets must participate in a character development forum, where they apply the Core Values to case studies in ethics.

**Activities:** Cadets must attend weekly meetings and special events on a regular basis.

A cadet’s maturity, individual character, and leadership skill is a final performance test local leaders use to decide if a cadet is ready for the new challenges that come with advancement.

\* This is a simplified explanation; special rules apply at certain steps in the program.

## Path of Progression in the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program

Phase	Achievement	Leadership	Aerospace	Fitness	Character	Activities	Grade
I The Learning Phase	Optional Orientation	Orientation	Orientation	Orientation	Orientation	Orientation	C/AB
	1. John Curry	Chapter 1	No Requirement	CPFT	Foundation Module	Participate Actively	C/Amn
	2. Hap Arnold	Chapter 2	Any Module	CPFT	1 Forum	Participate Actively	C/A1C
	3. Mary Feik	Chapter 3	Any Module	CPFT	1 Forum	Participate Actively	C/SrA
	<b>WRIGHT BROTHERS AWARD</b>	Comprehensive Exam	No Requirement	CPFT	No Requirement	Participate Actively	C/SSgt
II The Leadership Phase	4. Eddie Rickenbacker	Chapter 4	Any Module	CPFT	1 Forum	Participate Actively	C/TSgt
	5. Charles Lindbergh	Chapter 5	Any Module	CPFT	1 Forum	Participate Actively	C/MSgt
	6. Jimmy Doolittle	Chapter 6	Any Module	CPFT	1 Forum	Participate Actively	C/SMSgt
	7. Robert Goddard	Chapter 7	Any Module	CPFT	1 Forum	Participate Actively	C/CMSgt
	8. Neil Armstrong	Speech & Essay	No Requirement	CPFT	1 Forum	Participate Actively	
		<b>MITCHELL AWARD</b>	Comprehensive Exam	Comprehensive Exam	CPFT	No Requirement	Encampment
III The Command Phase	9. Flight Commander	Chapter 8 & SDA	3-Chapter Block	CPFT	1 Forum	Participate & Mentor	
	10. Administrative Officer	Chapter 9 & SDA	3-Chapter Block	CPFT	1 Forum	Participate & Mentor	C/1st Lt
	11. Public Affairs Officer	Chapter 10 & SDA	3-Chapter Block	CPFT	1 Forum	Participate & Mentor	
		<b>EARHART AWARD</b>	Comprehensive Exam	Comprehensive Exam	CPFT	No Requirement	SDA Staff Service
IV The Executive Phase	12. Leadership Officer	Chapter 11 & SDA	No Requirement	CPFT	1 Forum	Participate & Instruct	
	13. Aerospace Officer	Chapter 12 & SDA	No Requirement	CPFT	1 Forum	Participate & Instruct	
	14. Operations Officer	Chapter 13 & SDA	3-Chapter Block	CPFT	1 Forum	Participate & Instruct	C/Maj
	15. Logistics Officer	Chapter 14 & SDA	3-Chapter Block	CPFT	1 Forum	Participate & Instruct	
	16. Cadet Commander	Chapter 15 & SDA	3-Chapter Block	CPFT	1 Forum	Participate & Instruct	
		<b>EAKER AWARD</b>	Speech & Essay	No Requirement	CPFT	No Requirement	SDA Staff Service & Leadership Academy
	<b>SPAATZ AWARD</b>	Comprehensive Exam	Comprehensive Exam	CPFT	Essay Exam	Participate Actively	C/Col

## Excitement for Youth, Value for America

In the final analysis, what is the outcome of the CAP Cadet Program? What good does it do for cadets and for America?

To answer those questions, perhaps we should return to the alumni mentioned at the beginning of this presentation:



*"I made my first solo flight at a CAP encampment."*

**ASTRONAUT** ERIC BOE

*"My experiences as a CAP cadet were fundamental to my success."*

**AIR FORCE THUNDERBIRD** NICOLE MALACHOWSKI