

ILLINOIS WING

Wing Turns COVID-19 Challenges into Opportunities to Serve

Every organization has faced difficulties during the COVID-19 pandemic, and Civil Air Patrol and the Illinois Wing found themselves making necessary adjustments to many of their activities. In keeping with the CAP spirit of serving the nation and its communities, wing members stepped forward to help their neighbors.

Most notably, members have been assisting at several food pantries across Illinois, helping with the logistical challenge of distributing food during a period of increased need. Since operations began early in the pandemic, dozens of wing members have

participated in distribution of more than a half-million meals.

The wing's glider program has continued to provide opportunities for cadets to experience first-hand the science and thrill of flight. Through CAP's Cadet Wings Program, two cadets earned their private pilot certificates. And 11 of the wing's squadrons were recognized for their cadet programs with CAP's Quality Cadet Unit Award.

The wing's aerospace education program, which provides valuable, interactive ways to educate people on

the importance of aviation and aviation-related science, was recognized as the top such program in CAP's Great Lakes Region.

Wing members continue to maintain and practice their skills in providing search and rescue, disaster relief and other emergency response capabilities. Members were called to assist the Iowa Wing in the aftermath of a derecho Aug. 10-11, providing valuable damage assessment information for state and local officials.



A cadet watches as a CAP aircraft lands during glider activities at Bult Field near Beecher. *Photo by Capt. Julie Richey, Illinois Wing*

Illinois Wing 2020 Statistics

Volunteer Members

588 adult members
464 cadets
129 aircrew personnel
720 emergency responders

Squadrons

35 locations statewide

Aircraft

11 single engine
3 gliders

Vehicles

16 vehicles

Interoperable Communications

12 VHF/FM repeaters
199 VHF/FM stations
23 HF stations

Missions

3 search and rescue missions
 3 finds*
* Includes finds credited with national team support
2 disaster relief missions
2 CAP, AFROTC and AFJROTC cadet orientation flight missions
4 other Air Force support missions
41 training missions

Significant Events Supported in Fiscal Year 2020

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Chicago District aerial support

COVID-19 Mission Support

Distributing food and critical supplies

Cadet Flying

163 CAP, AFROTC and AFJROTC cadet orientation flights

Total Hours Flown

966

Financial

\$3,578,163 value of wing's volunteer hours

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Wing Info

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DID YOU KNOW?

During fiscal 2020, Illinois Wing members:

- ✓ Carried out 170 missions of all types.
- ✓ Earned 283 promotions.
- ✓ Logged 1,510 hours supporting COVID-19 response and recovery.

