

***2023 National ACE Plus Collaborative Team Award:
A Stellar Squadron-Classroom Adoption Program
Dan River Composite Squadron & Rockingham County Middle School***

**Capt Brent Wooters, MAR-NC-070 Squadron Commander
Ms Elissa Clegg , 6th grade science teacher
Mrs. Victoria Ore, 7th grade science teacher
at Rockingham Middle School**

**North Carolina CAP Wing Rockingham County Schools
Reidsville, NC**

Dan River Composite Squadron took the initiative to not only recruit two middle school science teachers as new CAP Aerospace Education Members, but to also ignite an interest in them to register for the Aerospace Connections in Education (ACE) program with their almost 200 6th and 7th grade students at Rockingham County Middle School in Reidsville, NC. To top that, the MAR-NC-070 squadron commander, Capt Brent Wooters, took on the challenge of having his squadron “adopt” these two classes in the [*ACE Plus: Squadron-Classroom Adopt Program*](#). This exemplifies true visionary leadership!!!

What started as a school visit and CAP presentation at the Rockingham County Middle School, Capt Wooters saw the potential to support teachers and bring awareness of the CAP cadet program to a large group of students. Thus, he determined the ACE Plus program would be an excellent outreach program for the squadron adults and cadets to introduce the many engaging STEM Kits to the students while teaching ACE lessons AND introducing the CAP cadet program to the students. But, they needed some brave and willing teachers to accept the joint challenge!!! Luckily, two science teachers were open-minded and adventurous in taking on the opportunity to enrich their students lives via this new partnership with the Civil Air Patrol.



The two outstanding and willing teachers were Ms Elissa Clegg (left), 6th grade science teacher, and Mrs. Victoria Ore (right), 7th grade science teacher at the stellar Rockingham County Middle School. Said Ms Clegg, “My students are excited about STEM, but the Civil Air Patrol took it to an entirely new level!”



Both teachers accepted the opportunity to integrate the structured grade specific ACE curriculum and allow both adult and cadet mentors from Civil Air Patrol to come into their classrooms and teach aviation, space, and cyber lessons through the ACE curriculum and with the associated free STEM Kits CAP offered. Talk about visionary teachers!!! Knowing all they had on them to complete their required core curriculum, they were brave risk takers with open minds and hearts to accept this new program and these wonderful volunteers to help them inspire their students toward new aerospace-related STEM career opportunities about which they were unaware.



As any educator knows, nothing new is accepted and/or adopted at a school without the thorough vetting, approval, and support of the school principal.

Thanks to Rockingham **Principal Moriah Dollarhite** for her wisdom in seeing the potential of this youth leadership organization coming into the school to mentor and inspire the students, and, support the teachers with free STEM materials, programs, and assistance.

It is obvious that Principal Dollarhite leads a transformative school with varied enrichment programs for the students.

Capt Wooters and his team of AE officers, cadets, and other squadron members took this adoption seriously and planned diligently to make their school visits worthwhile while going above and beyond the minimum three ACE lessons with these students. Read on to see what all they did as a team and see the squadron members working with the students.

Two articles showcased the partnership between the squadron and the school:

- 1- [Dan River Composite Squadron Cadets Beta Test STEM Kits for Civil Air Patrol National Headquarters](#) 27 April 2023

Cadet feedback on STEM materials such as these are crucial for Civil Air Patrol's Aerospace Education program because it is important to discover fun, engaging, and effective ways to teach STEM subjects that will positively influence the future generations of scientists and engineers.

Dan River has experienced a significant increase in cadet membership in 2023 thanks to the use of educational tools, such as STEM Kits, as a part of the Aerospace Education ACE Plus Adopt program. This program encourages squadrons to partner with local schools to promote aerospace education and the opportunities Civil Air Patrol membership can provide for students. This program appears to be working to bring in potential cadets to visit and possibly join the squadron.

2- [Dan River Composite Squadron Introduces the Civil Air Patrol to 190 Rockingham County Middle School Science Students](#) 14 March 2023

The Civil Air Patrol's Mission Statement states, "Volunteers serving America's communities, saving lives and shaping futures." While a good portion of this mission is carried out inside the doors of squadron buildings, we do have an expectation and responsibility to complete the last part of the mission, shaping futures, through external outreach.

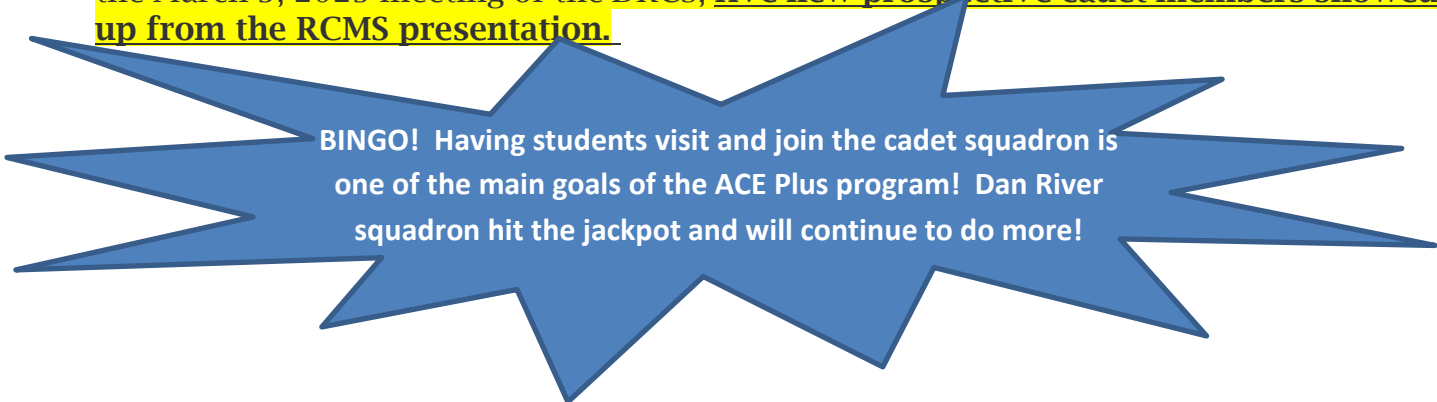
The Dan River Composite Squadron has embraced the external AE outreach goal through the [ACE Plus Adopt program](#). CAP AE developed this external outreach program at the national level that opens the doors for educators in the public, private, and homeschool arenas to receive the benefits of the STEM program that NHQ has established. These educators can order STEM Kits, education materials, and lesson plans that assist them in encouraging their students to pursue careers, hobbies, and volunteer opportunities in the aerospace fields.

Captain Brent Wooters and Captain Ralph Newcomb had an initial meeting with the two teachers and explained all the benefits of becoming members. They were both very eager to join. This was only one part of the external outreach goal that **Aerospace Education Officer Lt Kelly Joyce and Squadron Commander Captain Brent Wooters** had envisioned and embedded in the squadron's AE SMART goals.

The Dan River Composite Squadron enrolled both educators and all six classrooms of students into the Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Education ACE Plus Adopt program. This program partnered the teachers and the squadron to provide support in the classroom for materials, actual teaching assistance, and exposure to the Civil Air Patrol.

On February 28, 2023, **six senior members and six cadet members** of the DRCS made a presentation to all 190 students in the adopted classrooms at the Rockingham County Middle School. Students were introduced to the Civil Air Patrol, given a sUAS demonstration by **Captain Ralph Newcomb**, and given time on the unit's mobile flight simulator. Mrs. Ore and Ms Clegg were presented with AE Member T-shirts and some lucky students received free DRCS T-shirts and they all received rocket footballs.

Dan River Composite Squadron scheduled with the teachers to teach Newton's First Law of Motion and conduct experiments with the rocket footballs provided for each student by NHQ. The students were introduced to the cadet program, as well. **AND, at the March 3, 2023 meeting of the DRCS, five new prospective cadet members showed up from the RCMS presentation.**



BINGO! Having students visit and join the cadet squadron is one of the main goals of the ACE Plus program! Dan River squadron hit the jackpot and will continue to do more!

Dan River squadron adults prepared the cadets to go into the classrooms to share the ACE lessons and to demonstrate associated STEM Kits. Testing these STEM Kits with the students allowed both the cadets and students to learn more about the related topics.



HOW did CAP AE learn about all of these events which took place at the school?

The Dan River squadron took photos and documented what they did for all to see on their social media platforms. When they posted, they tagged @CAPAerospace so that the CAP AE team was aware of the communications and public awareness posts of their community outreach and school adoption! This led to the identification of a collaborative “adopt” team making great strides for the benefit of the students.

Dan River Facebook Post 17 April:

Senior and cadet members of [#DanRiverCAP](#) were asked to lead the Pledge of Allegiance and make a presentation on the CAP ACE Plus program and the [CAP Aerospace Education](#) program that the [Civil Air Patrol](#) has brought into the [Rockingham County Schools](#) at the 4/17/2023 meeting of the Rockingham County Board of Education Meeting.
[North Carolina Wing Civil Air Patrol](#) [Group 4 NCWG Civil Air Patrol](#)



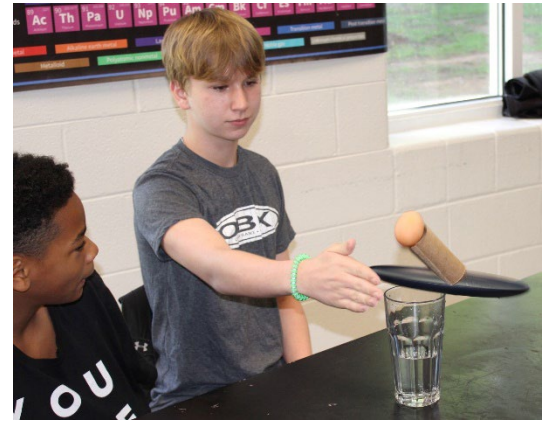


Dan River Facebook Post 17 April (which Rockingham MS also shared on their page):

Today members of [#DanRiverCAP](#) taught STEM Education at [Rockingham County Middle School](#). The 6th graders of Ms Clegg's classes learned about Newton's Law of Inertia. Experiments were conducted to demonstrate inertia. Additionally, each student received a Civil Air Patrol rocket football to demonstrate force, mass, and acceleration. This is [#DanRiverCAP](#)'s third visit to the school's ACE Plus Adopt participants this school year. This program only happened with the support of CAP squadron members: Lt Charlie Manley; SSgt Bill Rose; C/CMSgt Jackson Kaylor; and Capt Brent Wooters who spent their time with our AEM teachers and their students today.

[North Carolina Wing Civil Air Patrol](#) [CAP Aerospace Education](#) [Rockingham County Middle School](#)









Dan River Facebook Post 22 April:

Today the newest members of [#DanRiverCAP](#) completed their training and requirements for their Curry achievement! Welcome to all the new C/Airmen!

[#eruditusparatus](#) North Carolina Wing Civil Air Patrol Group 4 NCWG Civil Air Patrol

CAP AE Note: The CAP ACE Plus program has a mission of introducing students to new STEM subjects and careers while also demonstrating the benefits of becoming a CAP cadet. Hopefully this outreach initiative will continue bringing in new cadets to the squadron as it continues to grow via its outreach programs.



Dan River Facebook Post 20 April:

New cadets of [#DanRiverCAP](#) got to experience their first orientation flights today with **Capt Malone Rosemond**.

North Carolina Wing Civil Air Patrol Group 4 NCWG Civil Air Patrol



Dan River Facebook Post 31 March with video of events at Rockingham County MS:

Left click on photo, below, to see cool video:



CONGRATULATIONS to the MAR-NC-070 Dan River Composite Squadron and the Rockingham County Middle School for an awesome collaboration that is continuing at this writing.

The ACE Plus program's efficacy is being realized in all your collaborative team is doing. Your efforts to work together, to promote the program to others, and to give students the opportunity to find out about opportunities to help them soar in life is impressive and commendable! We applaud your teamwork!!!

From the Classroom to the Squadron!