

National CAP and AFA Aerospace Educators Attend Teachers Air Camp



Nationally-recognized AFA and CAP educators, Beth Leavitt and Brian Johnston

[Air Camp](#), located in Dayton, OH, extended a hand of collaboration to [Civil Air Patrol](#) and the [Air Force Association](#) to have as their summer Teachers Air Camp guests both organizations' 2018 National Aerospace Educator award winners. CAP National Aerospace Educator, Brian Johnston, joined AFA National Aerospace Educator, Beth Leavitt, in a four-day aviation-immersed education experience. As AE ambassadors for both CAP and the AFA, Brian and Beth ended their award year with this dynamic educational experience working with other educators from across the nation. Both national aerospace/STEM educational ambassadors were very appreciative to Air Camp for the opportunity to extend their professional development at the Teachers Camp. The two teachers extended a special thanks to Air Camp; CAP, and its Teacher of the Year sponsor, [Citgo](#); and the AFA, and its Teacher of the Year sponsor, [Rolls Royce](#).

From the anatomical flight of birds, to the birth of modern aviation with the Wright Brothers and beyond, the educators were provided hands-on aeronautical lessons and experiences that will be useful when teaching students. They heard from USAF leaders and test pilots at Wright-Patterson AFB, toured the National Museum of the United States Air Force, and test flew in flight simulators before taking the controls of an airplane during their logged FAA instructor flight lessons. Learning about all areas of aviation was a key component of the camp, from avionics, flight testing in wind tunnels, and learning to read sectional charts, to working on a small combustion engine.

CAP's Brian Johnston, a middle school teacher in Georgia, said, "I am very appreciative of this experience at Air Camp to have had access to the home of aviation and the knowledge base that Wright-Patterson has to offer. Bringing the beginning of aviation to the future of aviation has given me more knowledge and instructional ideas that will help me be a stronger teacher in promoting all types of aviation careers to my students."

The AFA's Beth Leavitt, a high school teacher in South Carolina, also lauded this opportunity, "The organizers of the camp really have their act together. Their focus on aviation is strong and we were given the tools to use this in our classes immediately. Thank you to AFA and Air Camp for one of the best professional development workshops I have ever attended."

Air Camp leaders have offered this camp experience for 2019 and future CAP and AFA National Teachers of the Year. Both CAP and the AFA are appreciative of and excited about this new Teacher of the Year award component.



The birds started it, but teachers take flight, too!



National CAP and AFA Aerospace/STEM Educators at Air Camp and with Co-founders and Trustees, Lt Gen (USAF, Ret) Dick Reynolds and Dr. Vince Russo