



**CIVIL AIR PATROL**  
USAF Auxiliary  
National Cadet Team

A Fresh Look at the **Fundamentals** of Youth Leadership

# YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

*Young people in their teens are faced with certain basic tasks in their growth as persons. They must find out who they are, what they believe in, and what kind of people they want to be. They must decide what kind of world they want to live in and how they are to be a part of that world. Toward these ends, it is desirable that they consciously choose a set of values, interiorize them, and through choices and repeated acts, live in a manner consistent with those values.*

JAMES J. DIGIACOMO, S.J.

## **PROGRAM** of **EVENTS**

Veterans' Day Weekend  
Atlanta 2019

**Friday**  
**8 November 2019**

**Welcome Reception**

**7:00 - 9:00 pm**

**Saturday**  
**9 November 2019**  
Depart hotel lobby at 7:45

**Welcome & Overview** **8:30-9:00**

**Curt LaFond**  
Director of Cadet Programs  
Civil Air Patrol

**Keynote: Permission to Dream** **9:00 - 10:00**

**Thomas Williams**  
NFL Ambassador

Break, with coffee & snacks

**Youth Development Today** **10:30 - 12:00**

**Dianely Heredia**  
Director of Military Training, Boys & Girls Clubs of America

- What are the key elements of positive youth development?
- What is the out of school time (OST), non-formal space?

Lunch with BGCA experts, provided by CAP on-site

**Youth Character Development** **12:45 - 2:45**

**Tamra Nast**  
Director of Exchange, Character.org

- What are the 11 principles of character education?
- How can we weave evidence-based practices into cadet life?

Break, with coffee & snacks

**Service Learning** **3:00 - 5:00**

**Amy Meuers**  
President, National Youth Leadership Council

- What is service learning?
- What are the service learning standards for quality practice?
- How can you integrate the standards into cadet activities?

Break, with coffee & snacks

**National Commander's Perspective** **5:15 - 5:50**

**Maj Gen Mark Smith CAP**  
National Commander & CEO  
Civil Air Patrol

**Housekeeping Items & Conclusion** **5:50 - 6:00**

Dinner by Region, including ADY National Staff



For medical and other safety emergencies, dial 9-1-1.

For urgent matters relating to the conference, dial the CAP Duty Telephone at (334) 641-0227.

**THANK YOU!**



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF AMERICA**

Special thanks to our valued partner, the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, for hosting this conference and assisting us with our strategic goal of lifting up the professional development of CAP adult volunteers, for the benefit of the cadets.



**Sunday**

**10 November 2019**

Depart hotel lobby at 7:45

**CAP REMEMBERS  
VETERANS' DAY  
NOVEMBER 11**

“To us in America the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country’s service, and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of nations.”

WOODROW WILSON  
*from the proclamation establishing  
Armistice Day, the precursor to  
Veterans' Day*



**Cadet News & Innovations**

**8:30 - 9:30**

Curt LaFond & Col Ned Lee CAP

Civil Air Patrol National Cadet Team

- What’s new and in the works?
- What’s our new logic model and KPIs?

Break, with coffee & snacks

**CP Officers’ Roundtable**

**9:45 - 11:00**

Curt LaFond & Col Ned Lee CAP

Civil Air Patrol National Cadet Team

- Agenda to be set by the community

Break, with coffee & snacks

**Flag Officer Perspective**

**11:15 - 12:00**

Darren McDew

General, USAF (Ret.)

Board of Governors, Boys & Girls Clubs of America

Lunch provided by CAP on-site

**Continuing Education: Spillett University**

**1:00 - 1:30**

Dawn Brunson

Senior Director, Military Outreach, Boys & Girls Clubs of America

**Youth Protection Strategies**

**1:30 - 2:45**

Les Nichols

Principal, R.L. Nichols & Associates

- What are the enduring principles of youth protection?
- Lessons learned from CAP case studies

Break, with coffee & snacks

**Cadet Program of the Future**

**3:00 - 4:30**

M.V. Coyote Smith, Ph.D.,

Professor of Strategic Studies, USAF Air Command & Staff College

- What threats and opportunities stand just over the horizon for 2030?
- How can the CAP Cadet Program honor its proud identity while remaining relevant?

Break, with coffee & snacks

**Housekeeping Items**

**4:45 - 5:00**

**Closing Address**

**5:00 - 5:30**

C/Lt Col Isabella Mollison CAP

Overseas Military Youth of the Year, Boys & Girls Clubs of America

Dinner with friends and colleagues of your choosing

## About Our Speakers

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**Dawn Brunson** is senior director of military outreach at Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA), where she manages the strategic partnership with CAP. Prior to joining BGCA, Dawn served in youth development positions with USDA and the US Army. She is a graduate of a non-profit executive leadership program at Harvard Business School.

**Jim Clark** joined Boys & Girls Clubs of America as president and CEO in 2012. He leads a network of 4,300 clubs that serve nearly 4 million young people annually in all 50 states, in large cities and small towns, in public housing and on Native lands, and on U.S. military installations across the globe. More than 50,000 professional staff members operate the clubs, supported by 285,000 board and program volunteers.

**Dianely Heredia** joined BGCA in 2010 and currently serves as director of military training. Previously at BGCA, she served as military service director, Europe. Before BGCA, Dianely served as program manager for Army Child and Youth Programs at the US Army Garrison, Heidelberg, Germany.

**Curt LaFond** leads CAP's National Cadet Team, serving as the congressionally-mandated Cadet Program's focal point for curriculum, program management, and policy. Curt is himself a proud alum and Spaatz Award recipient from Laconia, New Hampshire. He's the author of [Learn to Lead](#), a 4-volume, standards-based textbook introducing cadets to the art and science of leadership. Curt's educational background is in literature and moral philosophy, and through BGCA he completed a non-profit executive leadership program at Harvard Business School.

**Col Ned Lee** is the National Cadet Programs Manager, the senior volunteer on the National Cadet Team. Col Lee provides leadership on strategic initiatives, senior leader advocacy, and doctrine development. Col Lee is himself a proud alum and Spaatz Award recipient. As vice chairman of the CAP Board of Governors, Col Lee was a leader in the evidence-based redesign of the CAP governance structure and the Cadet Protection Program. Outside of CAP, Col Lee presides as a judge for the Superior Court of California, in the County of Santa Clara. The U.S. Department of State selected Judge Lee, an internationally-recognized expert on judicial ethics, to train judges in the newly-formed judiciary of Montenegro.

**Gen Darren McDew USAF (Ret.)** and his three brothers attended the Boys & Girls Club for five years while

their father was stationed at Langley AFB. It was at the Club, interacting with other youth, that Darren overcame his shyness and discovered his talent for leadership. He is a pilot with more than 3,000 flight hours in a variety of aircraft. Gen. McDew often speaks to young people across the country about achieving success and becoming leaders.

**Amy Meuers** is CEO of the National Youth Leadership Council and a respected expert on service-learning. Her passion and commitment to young people is evident through her leadership of the National Service-Learning Conference for the past 15 years, her commentary through articles and blog posts, as well as her own volunteer activities. Prior to joining NYLC, Amy spent 10 years in the insurance industry working in claims, risk control, marketing, and event planning.

**C/Lt Col Isabella Mollison** is BGCA's 2019 Overseas Military Youth of the Year. She is a graduate of Yokota High School of Yokota AFB, Japan. She has completed CAP's Cadet Officer School, the Cyber Defense Training Academy's familiarization and advanced courses, and earned her glider solo badge. Bella is a freshman AFROTC student at American University in Washington, DC, where she studies Arabic and international relations.

**Tamra Nast** is director of exchange at Character.org. She is an educational consultant and 11 Principles Trainer. Her background as a parent, teacher, school counselor, and character coordinator provides a wealth of experience.

**Les Nichols** develops safety programs for youth organizations. For 22 years, he served as the lead youth safety expert for BGCA. He has consulted with organizations in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico, Germany, Italy, England, Spain, Guam, Philippines, and Japan and written and lectured on effective organizational strategies to prevent sexual abuse, bullying, and violence. Mr. Nichols is a board-certified protection professional (CPP) through the American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS International) and a licensed architect. He holds a master's in security administration and certificates in enterprise risk management and emergency response planning.

**Julie Rogers-Bascom** is a respected service-learning leader and consultant. She is director of training and leadership development at the National Youth Leadership Council. Previously, she served as service-learning coordinator for Edina (MN) Public Schools.

**Maj Gen Mark E. Smith** is CAP's CEO and National Commander, leading 63,000 members in fulfilling the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary's congressionally chartered missions. He retired from the Air Force as a Colonel in 2000. An Operation Desert Storm veteran, he commanded the 27th Fighter Squadron and served as director of the Office of the Secretary of Defense's Joint Advanced Distributed Simulation Joint Test and Evaluation program. His private sector experience includes service as an International Test and Evaluation Association board member and the first chair of the Simulation Interoperability Standards Organization's executive committee. He has held positions as senior vice president and operations manager for Science Applications International Corp., and vice president for test and evaluation for Scientific Research Corp. Maj Gen Smith is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and holds a doctorate in ethical leadership from Olivet Nazarene University.

**Col M.V. "Coyote" Smith, USAF (Ret.), PhD**, is a professor of strategic studies at the USAF Air Command and Staff College and a retired Air Force colonel. While in uniform, he led Project Blue Horizons for the Air Force Chief of Staff and served as the chief of "Dream Works," where he led the Defense Science Board and directed the Space-Based Solar Power Study. He later served as the chief air and space power strategist on the Pentagon's strategic planning council during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The colonel was raised in North Conway, New Hampshire, and entered the Air Force in 1976 as a cadet in the Civil Air Patrol.

**Thomas R. Williams** is the author of [Permission to DREAM](#) and [The Relentless Pursuit of Greatness](#), a professional speaker, an NFL player engagement ambassador, and philanthropist. He impacts his audiences by helping them create a successful vision which leads them to greatness. Thomas was a captain on USC's football team where he and his Trojan teammates won two national championships. Thomas played for five years in the NFL. In 2012, after a career-ending neck injury, Thomas transitioned from a game changer to a life changer, helping people tackle obstacles and finding their winning solutions.