



# CIVIL AIR PATROL CADET PROGRAMS

Overview for Strategic Audiences



**CIVIL AIR PATROL**  
U.S. AIR FORCE AUXILIARY



# WHY AMERICA NEEDS CADETS



## America's acute workforce needs for the 2020's

- Pilots
- Cyber defenders
- STEM professionals
- Young adults who meet military health & character requirements

## America's enduring needs

Responsible citizenship grounded in:

- Commitment to a personal code of honor
- Leadership skills for a diverse, democratic society
- Motivation & knowledge for aero careers



# TODAY'S CADETS: TOMORROW'S AEROSPACE LEADERS



To help America meet its needs, we provide a youth-scaled, Air Force-themed extracurricular activity. Cadet life is fun and meaningful.

We offer a safe, positive place to develop leadership skills while exploring aviation and STEM careers.

## KEY TRAITS OF CADET LIFE

THE UNIFORM

AEROSPACE THEME

OPPORTUNITY TO LEAD

CHALLENGE

FUN



# CONTENT AREAS

## LEADERSHIP

Academic study  
Service learning  
Air Force traditions



## FITNESS

Coaching  
High adventure  
Presidential Youth Fitness Program



## AEROSPACE\*

Academics  
Flying  
Career exploration



## CHARACTER

Core Values formation  
Moral reasoning  
Mentoring

\* "Aerospace" includes aviation, space, cyber, and other STEM fields needed in the future



# CADET LIFE'S LOOK-AND-FEEL

## INPUTS

- 32,000 cadets aged 12-20
- 1,000 hometown squadrons
- 6,500 trained adult volunteer mentors
- \$5M direct annual USAF investment
- Financial aid for uniforms, activities, & flying
- \$200 to \$500 estimated annual participation costs, paid by families

## LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

- 2 hours “Tuesday night” or after school on campus
- One “Saturday” per month
- Week-long encampment
- Youth-scaled, Air Force look-and-feel
- School & family come first
- No military commitment
- Youth safety standards per Centers for Disease Control & Prevention



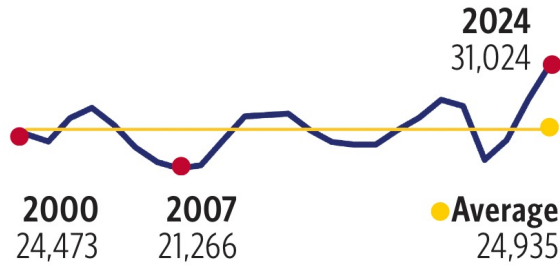


CIVIL AIR PATROL  
CADET PROGRAMS

# DATA BANK

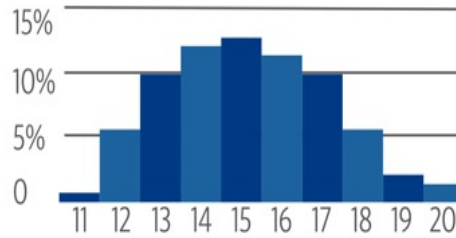
## Enrollment

Highest enrollment since at least 1977

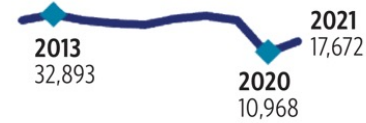


## Cadet Ages

Median: 15.2



## Orientation Flights



O-flights are safe, fun, and educational experiences in CAP single-engine and glider aircraft

## Cadets Trained as Private Pilots

About 90 cadets become licensed pilots annually, thanks to USAF and Ray Foundation funding



## Gender

75% male  
25% female



## Race

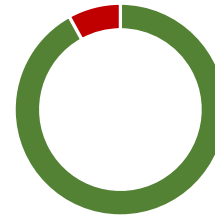
75% white  
25% non-white



## Locations

We're located in about 1,000 squadrons across the US in all 50 states plus DC, PR, USVI, & Guam.

We also serve USAF families on 6 bases in Europe and 6 bases in Asia.



## Future Participation

92% of cadets say they want to participate 3 times per month or more in the coming year



# CADET PROGRESSION

Cadets rank-up as high as Cadet Colonel by completing one task in each of the four content areas: leadership, aerospace, fitness, and character.\*

The uniform and cadet rank structure cause young people to see themselves as cadets, young leaders who are serious about their future.

\* Simplified explanation



**PHASE I**  
First Cadet Year

**PHASE II**  
Second Cadet Year

**PHASE III**  
Third Cadet Year

**PHASE IV**  
Fourth Cadet Year





# CADET FLIGHT PLAN

*Suggested pathway for the 76% of cadets who are aspiring aviators*



## 1<sup>st</sup> CADET YEAR

Uniform

Core Values

STEM Kits

Orientation Flight

Encampment

Healthy Fitness Zone

Wright Brothers Award

## 2<sup>nd</sup> CADET YEAR

Career Exploration Camps

Cyber Defense

Aviation Mechanics

Pararescue

Space Systems

Engineering

Solo Flight

## 3<sup>rd</sup> CADET YEAR

Private Pilot License via Cadet Wings

## BEYOND CADET STATUS

College Scholarships

USAF Academy Preparatory School\*

ROTC Scholarships\*

Military Enlistment at E-3\*

\* Only if so desired; cadets are never obligated to enter the military



## OUTCOMES

### Cadets

- 97% "CAP has been a turning point in my life."
- 96% "I've started to think more about my future because of CAP."
- 87% "I do things at CAP I can't do anywhere else."
- 82% "I earn As & Bs at school"

### Cadet Career Interests

- 81% "I am interested in a military career."
- 76% "I am interested in an aviation career."
- 65% "I am interested in a STEM career."

### Parents

- 95% "My cadet has become better at taking feedback."
- 92% "As a parent, I've seen improvements in my cadet's overall attitude."
- 78% "As a parent, my cadet's performance at school has improved."



Source: Annual CAP Cadet Survey (2020-22) with inputs from cadets, parents, and adult leaders using the Youth Experiences Survey 2.0 (Hansen & Larson, 2005), and benchmarked CAP responses against YES 2.0 studies by Denault & Poulin (2016) and Jones & Parker (2013).



## OUR CHALLENGES



### ADULT LEADERSHIP

As with most youth programs, our #1 priority is in recruiting and training adults prepared to serve the cadets as mentors and instructors.

### DIVERSITY

We are making progress in reaching historically under-represented communities but need help at national and local levels alike to continue our progress.

### INCREASING ACCESS

Cadet families typically incur \$200 to \$500 in expenses annually. We're developing partnerships with people and organizations who can help increase access to cadet life.

### AIR FORCE CONNECTIONS

We seek Air Force Active, Guard, and Reserve bases as partners to host cadet field trips and orientation flights.



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## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

[cadets@capnhq.gov](mailto:cadets@capnhq.gov)

(877) 227-9142

[GoCivilAirPatrol.com](http://GoCivilAirPatrol.com)