

# CIVIL AIR PATROL

The United States Air Force Auxiliary



**Prospective Member  
Information Package**



**OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER  
CIVIL AIR PATROL**

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY  
Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama 36112-63332



Dear Prospective Member:

Over 60 years ago, America was involved in a world war. As young men and women said good-bye to home, family and friends and prepared to travel to distant shores to defend their homeland, a group of dedicated citizens led by aviator Gill Robb Wilson had a vision. This vision combined a love of aviation with the desire of these concerned citizens to put their flying skills to use in defense of America. Today, that vision – the Civil Air Patrol – is over 64,000 members strong and you can be part of it.

*Instead of defending America's coastline from enemy attack, CAP is now battling in the war on drugs.*

*Our cadet program is one of the premiere youth volunteer programs in the country.*

*Our members are trained and ready to assist the American Red Cross, FEMA as well as other agencies when disaster strikes our communities.*

*And through aerospace education, the love of aviation is shared with more than 300,000 students each year.*

These are just a few examples of the service to your community that CAP membership affords. By joining today, you will cast your vote towards the future of CAP —

- ◆ a future that supports our nation's efforts to protect our citizens through Homeland Security;
- ◆ a future that nurtures our youth and provides them with opportunity;
- ◆ a future that will unfold before our eyes as CAP grows, adapts and changes according to the needs of our country and membership;
- ◆ a future that promotes service to your community; and
- ◆ a future that helps ensure this valuable service to America continues.

I am looking forward to the years ahead, and I sincerely hope you will join us and enjoy the benefits and privileges of CAP membership.

Please take a few moments and review the enclosed information regarding membership in CAP. If you decide to take advantage of the many benefits awaiting you, a list of squadrons closest to you has been provided. Visit as many of them as you need to until you find the right one!

Thank you for your interest in Civil Air Patrol membership. We look forward to having you become part of our team of dedicated volunteers.

My best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard L. Bowling".

Richard L. Bowling  
Major General, CAP  
National Commander

In the late 1930s, more than 150,000 volunteers with a love for aviation argued for an organization to put their planes and flying skills to use in defense of their country. As a result, the Civil Air Patrol was born one week prior to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Thousands of volunteer members answered America's call to national service and sacrifice by accepting and performing critical wartime missions. Assigned to the War Department under the jurisdiction of the Army Air Corps, the contributions of Civil Air Patrol, including logging more than 500,000 flying hours, sinking two enemy submarines, and saving hundreds of crash victims during World War II, are well documented.

After the war, a thankful nation understood that Civil Air Patrol could continue providing valuable services to both local and national agencies. On July 1, 1946, President Harry Truman signed Public Law 476 incorporating Civil Air Patrol as a benevolent, nonprofit organization. On May 26, 1948, Congress passed Public Law 557 permanently establishing Civil Air Patrol as the auxiliary of the new U.S. Air Force. Three primary missions areas were set forth at that time: aerospace education, cadet programs, and emergency services.



President Franklin D. Roosevelt awards the first Air Medals of World War II to Maj. Hugh R. Sharp, CAP, and Lt. Edmond Edwards, CAP, for their heroic sea rescue of Coastal Patrol flier Lt. Henry Cross. Looking on is James M. Landis, wartime chief of the Office of Civil Defense.



Civil Air Patrol is a benevolent, nonprofit organization performing humanitarian services on behalf of the U.S. Air Force. Today, 60 years since its inception, over 64,000 CAP volunteer members—approximately 27,000 youth and 37,000 adults—continue to put general aviation to its best use through service in the Civil Air Patrol. They are dedicated to saving lives, flying counterdrug missions, participating in homeland security efforts, providing disaster relief, advancing young people, and supporting America's educators.

### Resources

CAP's assets and resources include, but are not limited to, 530 corporate owned aircraft, almost 4,000 member owned aircraft, 950 ground vehicles and the most extensive communications system in the world. However, CAP's most valuable asset is its volunteers. Including training, members log in excess of 100,000 flying hours each year.



### Opportunities

Members may participate at many different levels and in many capacities. There is something to meet most every individual's needs and interests. One unique aspect of CAP is the training provided to help a member fulfill the responsibilities of his/her volunteer "job." Members may serve in the following areas:

- |                           |                       |                            |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Flight Instruction</i> | <i>Personnel</i>      | <i>Public Affairs</i>      |
| <i>Search and Rescue</i>  | <i>Administration</i> | <i>Historian</i>           |
| <i>Safety</i>             | <i>Recruiting</i>     | <i>Disaster Relief</i>     |
| <i>Inspections</i>        | <i>Counterdrug</i>    | <i>Legal</i>               |
| <i>Communication</i>      | <i>Chaplain</i>       | <i>Operations</i>          |
| <i>Logistics</i>          | <i>Medical</i>        | <i>Aerospace Education</i> |
| <i>Finance</i>            | <i>Transportation</i> | <i>Supply</i>              |

... and many others. If your area of interest is not listed, just ask at the local unit and you will probably find it.

All CAP activities fall under three mission areas: aerospace education, cadet programs and emergency services. However, the mission areas have expanded greatly over the past 20 years to include homeland security, drug interdiction and prevention, disaster relief, and tissue and blood transportation. Whether your interests lie in searching for downed aircraft, mentoring young people or providing aerospace education to America's teachers, there is a place for you in CAP.

## Aerospace Education

CAP's aerospace education efforts focus on two different audiences: volunteer CAP members and the general public. The programs ensure that all CAP members (adults and cadets) have an appreciation for and knowledge of aerospace issues. To advance within the organization, members are required to participate in the educational program. Aerospace educators at CAP's National Headquarters at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., provide current materials that reflect the highest standards of educational excellence.

CAP's external aerospace programs are conducted through our nation's educational system. Each year, CAP sponsors more than 100 workshops in colleges and universities across the nation, reaching more than 3,000 educators and thereby hundreds of thousands of young people. These workshops highlight basic aerospace knowledge and focus on advances in aerospace technology. CAP's aerospace education members receive more than 33 free teaching aids, as well as lesson plans and other classroom materials.

CAP's unpaid volunteers take the lead in providing aerospace education to other members and to the general public. If you are an

educator, or perhaps enjoy hands-on activities or demonstrations, consider joining CAP's aerospace education program.

## Cadet Programs

While there are many youth oriented programs in America today, CAP's cadet program is unique in that it uses aviation as a cornerstone. Thousands of young people from 12 through age 21 are introduced to aviation through CAP's cadet program. The program allows young people to progress at their own pace through a 16-step program including aerospace education, leadership training,

physical fitness and moral leadership. Cadets compete for academic scholarships to further their studies in fields such as engineering, science, aircraft mechanics, aerospace medicine, meteorology, as well as many others. Those cadets who earn cadet officer status may

enter the Air Force as an E3 (airman first class) rather than an E1 (airman basic).

Whatever your interests—survival training or flight training, leadership, astronomy—there's a place for you in CAP's cadet program. Each year, cadets have the opportunity to participate in special activities at the local, state, regional or national level. Many cadets will have the opportunity to solo fly an airplane for the first time through a flight encampment or academy. Others will enjoy traveling abroad through the International Air Cadet Exchange. Still others assist at major air shows throughout the nation.

## Emergency Services

Growing from its World War II experience, the CAP has continued to save lives and alleviate human suffering through a myriad of emergency-services and operational missions.

Perhaps best known for its search-and-rescue efforts, CAP flies more than 85 percent of all federal

inland search-and-rescue missions directed by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Langley Air Force Base, Va. Outside the continental United States, CAP supports the Joint Rescue Coordination Centers in Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. Just how effective are the CAP

missions? Nearly 100 people are saved each year by CAP members!

Another important service CAP performs is disaster-relief operations. CAP provides air and ground transportation and an extensive communications network. Volunteer members fly disaster-relief officials to remote locations and provide manpower and leadership to local, state and national disaster-relief organizations.

CAP has formal agreements with many government and humanitarian relief agencies including the American Red Cross,

Federal Emergency Management Agency, Federal Aviation Administration, National Transportation Safety Board and the U.S. Coast Guard. CAP flies humanitarian missions—usually in support of the Red Cross—transporting

time-sensitive medical materials including blood and human tissue, in situations where other means of transportation are not available.

It's hardly surprising that CAP performs several missions in direct support of the U.S. Air Force. Specifically, CAP conducts light



transport, communications support, and low-altitude route surveys. CAP also provides orientation flights for AFROTC cadets. Joint U.S. Air Force and CAP search-and-rescue exercises provide realistic training for missions. CAP joined the "war on drugs" in 1986 when, pursuant to congressional authorization, CAP signed an agreement with the U.S. Air

Force and U.S. Customs Service offering CAP resources to help stem the flow of drugs into and within the United States.

CAP has come full-circle by being called upon to be a major contributor to our country's critical Homeland Security efforts. We have 60,000 well-trained volunteers in 1,700 communities nationwide. Our members have excellent air/ground

observation and communications assets at their disposal. CAP can provide aerial reconnaissance, photography and transportation, radiological monitoring, disaster and damage assessment, and much, much more. Congress gave CAP its original coastal patrol charter during World War II, and we are ready to step forward to assist our nation again.

**Senior Membership**

CAP senior membership is open to adults 18 years old or older. Adult membership provides many opportunities to serve:

- ✓ Search and rescue
- ✓ Homeland security
- ✓ Disaster relief
- ✓ Work with youth through cadet programs
- ✓ Support CAP's communications network—the nation's most extensive
- ✓ Help fight the war on drugs

To prepare CAP adult members for CAP's special missions, extensive training and education in more than 20 different fields is provided. Technical training is offered to members in related areas, such as flight operations, emergency services and communications. Additional training in management and executive leadership is available as members progress through the CAP ranks.

If you are currently an **Active Duty Reservist**, you can earn points toward retirement in the CAPRAP program. Please call 334.953.5225 (commercial) or 493-5225 (DSN) for more information.

A **patron member** is a financial supporter who maintains current membership through payment of annual membership dues and participates in a limited capacity.

**Business Member**

A business member is any U.S. corporation, partnership, proprietorship, or organization which

applies for CAP membership in the name of the corporation, partnership, proprietorship or organization. This category is designed for members of the business community who demonstrate desire to financially support the CAP missions and associated programs.

**Cadet Membership**

CAP cadet membership is open to young people 12-18 years old. A cadet can remain in the program until age 21. The cadet program provides opportunities to develop leadership skills using the member's interest in aviation.

Cadets progress through a 16-step program of aviation and aerospace activities at the local, regional and national levels. CAP national activities focus on a variety of

aviation, aerospace, search and rescue, and pararescue courses. CAP cadets can compete for scholarships to help

further their education. CAP is proud to report that 10 percent of Air Force Academy appointees are former CAP cadets. In addition, both West Point and Annapolis admit many CAP cadets each year. Many scholarships are available to cadets. Contact Cadet Programs at 334.953.4304 for details.

**Cadet Sponsor Membership**

Cadet Sponsor is a special membership category that allows

parents, grandparents and legal guardians to participate with their cadets. Cadet sponsors serve as chaperones, provide transportation, and supervise cadets during squadron activities. Cadet sponsors are offered discounted membership dues and have a limited volunteer commitment. To become a Cadet sponsor, fill out the Senior Member application and write "Cadet Sponsor Member" at the top.

**Aerospace Education Membership**

This membership category is designed for members of the educational community who are interested in aerospace education. CAP Aerospace Education members (AEMs) receive more than 33 free educational products for grades K through 12. AEMs are also provided

additional materials such as lesson plans, teaching strategies and techniques, and a newsletter.

CAP sponsors the National

Congress on Aviation and Space Education (NCASE), an annual gathering of educators dedicated to furthering aerospace education. Recognized as the premier educational symposium of its kind in the nation, NCASE is held in a different part of the country each year. If you are interested in joining as an aerospace education member, you should contact National Headquarters at 334.953.4239, jemerson@cap.gov.



## How do I join CAP?

Begin by visiting the local units or squadrons in your area until you find the right one for you. You can find squadron contact and meeting information on the Squadron Locator in this packet. The phone number listed most likely will be a home phone number for the squadron commander so keep that in mind when calling. Also, the squadron may only be at the meeting location during meeting times so if you have questions, please call the contact information listed. Should you have trouble reaching someone, you can contact the Wing Headquarters telephone numbers listed below for further assistance.

Once you have decided which squadron to join, you will need to obtain a membership application from the squadron. Fill the application out completely, get the squadron commander's signature and forward the paperwork and your check to CAP National Headquarters, New Member Processing, 105 South Hansell Street, Building 714, Maxwell AFB AL 36112-6332. Membership applications are only available through the local squadron.

Anyone joining as a senior member must submit a fingerprint card to headquarters as well. Cards are also available from the local unit.

## How much does membership cost?

Annual membership dues are broken down in three levels: national, wing/regional and squadron. The national dues are \$30 for seniors and \$20 for cadets. Wing/regional dues as well as squadron dues vary. Please check in your area for exact figures. The cost of Cadet Sponsor Membership is \$20 for the first year and \$15 to renew.

## Do members have to wear a uniform?

Cadets must wear the Air Force-style blue uniform with special CAP patches. The cadet membership application contains a voucher for one free uniform per cadet. As long as funds are available, the USAF provides a uniform for the cadets at no charge.

Senior members may be required to wear a uniform such as when flying in CAP aircraft. Senior members may wear the USAF style blue uniform or

one of the distinctive CAP uniforms. However, some members choose to serve quietly without wearing a uniform.

## What will I get out of membership in CAP?

Other than the valuable experience and training in such areas as leadership, communications, aviation and aerospace education that will be an asset to you throughout your life, you will receive the more tangible benefits listed under "Member Benefits" on the next page.

## Do CAP members have access to military bases and get to shop at the BX (Base Exchange)?

You will only have access to the base when participating in CAP events. You will be allowed to shop at the BX only when on official orders and billeted on the base. Authorized uniform items can be purchased at the Military Clothing sales store.

## Are non U.S. citizens allowed to join?

Aliens admitted for permanent residence are eligible. Other noncitizens must request a waiver of the citizenship requirement through the wing and region commander.

## I'm not a pilot. May I still join?

Yes! There are many "jobs" in CAP. Whatever your talent or area of interest, there is a squadron or unit that needs you. Please refer to the page entitled "CAP Today" to find a partial listing of the jobs available. For a more complete list, contact the local squadron in your area.

## What criteria must a pilot meet to fly corporate aircraft?

To be eligible to fly a corporate aircraft, the pilot must possess a valid FAA private, commercial or airline pilot certificate; must be an active CAP member at least 17 years in age; and must possess a valid and current medical certificate. The member must complete a flight check in the aircraft within the preceding 12 months as well as an annual written examination and annual aircraft questionnaires for each aircraft authorized to fly. The pilot must have 175 PIC hours and 50 cross-country PIC hours to serve as a mission pilot.

## Wing Phone Numbers

Alabama - 334.953.6465  
 Alaska - 907.551.3147  
 Arkansas - 501.376.1729  
 Arizona - 602.392.7503  
 California - 818.989.8100  
 Colorado - 303.677.5003  
 Connecticut - 860.262.5847  
 Delaware - 302.322.5493  
 Florida - 813.828.4300  
 Georgia - 770.428.9031  
 Hawaii - 808.836.3417  
 Idaho - 208.422.5251  
 Indiana - 765.688.2152  
 Illinois - 630.584.0177  
 Iowa - 563.210.2882  
 Kansas - 785.825.0009  
 Kentucky - 502.564.0660  
 Louisiana - 504.241.9530  
 Maine - 207.626.7830  
 Maryland - 410.863.0600  
 Massachusetts - 781.377.7023  
 Michigan - 586.307.2270  
 Minnesota - 651.291.0462  
 Mississippi - 601.353.1020  
 Missouri - 660.687.3847  
 Montana - 406.731.3287  
 National Capital - 202.767.7776  
 Nebraska - 402.471.3028  
 Nevada - 775.358.3700  
 New Hampshire - 603.271.3225  
 New Jersey - 609.754.2078  
 New Mexico - 505.268.5678  
 New York - 516.222.9140  
 North Carolina - 336.570.6894  
 North Dakota - 701.328.8190  
 Ohio - 614.497.0116  
 Oklahoma - 405.736.6044  
 Oregon - 541.688.9408  
 Pennsylvania - 717.861.2335  
 Puerto Rico - 787.253.7510  
 Rhode Island - 401.737.8490  
 South Carolina - 803.822.5470  
 South Dakota - 605.367.4870  
 Tennessee - 865.573.9186  
 Texas - 254.867.3680  
 Utah - 801.533.5456  
 Vermont - 802.863.3988  
 Virginia - 804.743.2220  
 Washington - 253.982.2213  
 Wisconsin - 414.527.0580  
 Wyoming - 307.773.4117  
 West Virginia - 304.343.8866

### **What is the difference in a senior squadron, a cadet squadron, a composite squadron and a flight?**

A senior squadron is one that is only open to senior, or adult, members. A cadet squadron is for cadet members but, will have some senior members who work with the cadets. A composite squadron is one that is made up of both senior and cadet members.

A flight is a smaller version of a squadron but, operates much the same way as a typical squadron.

A group oversees several squadrons in a given area and in some cases is not open for new members to

join. The group staff would be a good source of information regarding individual squadrons and their activities.

A wing is a state headquarters and, like the group headquarters, is more administrative in nature and is not open for new members to join. Although, if you have difficulty finding a squadron, the wing headquarters would be able to assist you in your search. A region is made up of several wings, or states. These are also more administrative in nature and closed to new members.

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### **CAP Visa Credit Card**

The CAP affinity VISA card offers senior members and parents of cadets a credit card that supports CAP. Each time the card is used in a transaction, a donation is made by the bank to support CAP. The CAP emblem and member's grade are embossed on the front of this distinctive credit card.

### **ExxonMobil**

Members can purchase top of the line lubricants for their personal aircraft at a discount directly from Exxon Mobil.

### **Training**

CAP offers aerospace education, leadership and technical training, including Air Force correspondence courses, for all CAP members. Special training is also conducted for those participating in search and rescue as mission pilots, observers or ground team members. Communications training is highly specialized and presents unique opportunities to network with other communicators from around the country.

### **Uniforms**

When available, the Air Force issues a free basic cadet uniform—a savings of approximately \$100. The uniform includes shirt, pants (or skirt for female cadets), belt and buckle, shoes and hat. A voucher for the free cadet uniform is available on the cadet membership application. Since CAP is the official U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, senior members are also authorized to wear the Air Force-style uniform with distinguishing CAP badges and insignia. Contact the National Headquarters Logistics at 334.953.1501 for more information on free cadet uniforms.

### **Rental Car Discounts**

The Hertz Corporation offers rental car discounts to CAP members for both business and pleasure travel. A special Hertz identification card is furnished to each member upon request.

### **Meetings and Conferences**

CAP members gather regularly at meetings and conferences around the country. There is also a national convention held in a different city every year. Air travel to and from the conference is provided by the Air Force if available.

### **AeroClub Discount**

By being a member of CAP, you can join the AeroClub and receive a substantial discount on the cost of flying lessons. Please contact your local Aero Club for details and availability.

### **International Air Cadet Exchange Program**

Each year a limited number of cadets and senior member escorts travel to several foreign countries as part of an aviation cadet exchange to further international goodwill and understanding. Contact Cadet Programs for more information. 334.953.2273

### **Life and Health Insurance**

Members are eligible to participate in a guarantee issue 10-year level term life insurance with no rate increase due to health conditions. Pilots receive the same rates as non-pilots. Members are also eligible for a hospital endeminity plan, cancer and a supplemental health care program.

### **Tax Benefits**

As a federally chartered nonprofit organization, CAP is tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code. This entitles members to claim various expenses as charitable contributions to the extent allowed by the law. These include the following:

- ✓ Membership dues;
- ✓ Expenses for uniforms and training materials;
- ✓ Out of pocket expenses for CAP activities;
- ✓ Mileage on personal vehicles; and
- ✓ Travel and living expenses while participating in CAP activities.

## National Headquarters Contact Information

Aerospace Education .....	334.953.5095
Cadet Programs .....	334.953.4238
Emergency Services .....	334.953.4905
Counter Drug .....	334.953.4494
Drug Demand Reduction .....	334.953.4237
Logistics .....	334.953.1501
Membership Services .....	877.227.9142
Strategic Communications .....	334.953.5463
Civil Air Patrol News .....	334.953.5700
CAP Bookstore .....	800.633.8768

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<http://www.cap.gov>

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### Civil Air Patrol National Headquarters

Membership Development  
105 South Hansell St., Building 714  
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6332