

America's Youth



INVESTING IN AMERICA'S YOUTH

a STRATEGIC OVERVIEW of
CIVIL AIR PATROL CADET PROGRAMS



INTEGRITY • VOLUNTEER SERVICE • EXCELLENCE • RESPECT

PREFACE

This pamphlet summarizes how Civil Air Patrol transforms American youth who rise to the challenges of cadet membership in CAP, the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary.

It is a guide for community leaders, educators, military officers, parents and other friends of the CAP Cadet Program.

As a strategic overview, this guide answers three principal questions:

- *What* does CAP envision for the youth who comprise its cadet corps? Explain the SCOPE of the Cadet Program's capabilities.
- *How* does CAP fulfill its Cadet Program goals? Describe OPPORTUNITIES available to youth who take advantage of the Cadet Program.
- *Why* is the CAP Cadet Program worthwhile? Identify OUTCOMES that are achieved for America and the cadets themselves.

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Everyday Heroes — The Faces of Civil Air Patrol

INVESTING IN AMERICA'S YOUTH

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*Youth developing leadership skills in an aerospace setting -
this is the essence of the CAP Cadet Program.*



CAP develops LEADERSHIP skills in youth

SCOPE

Civil Air Patrol develops youth through self-paced study of the art of leadership. Cadets learn how to lead through formal classroom instruction and a laboratory of hands-on experience where they apply leadership principles to real-world challenges within the cadet corps. Through a graduated curriculum, cadets first learn to follow, then to lead small groups, and ultimately experience command and executive-level leadership, earning cadet grade and honors along the way. Topics include how to think critically, communicate effectively, make decisions, motivate and manage conflict. Self-discipline and teamwork are emphasized.

“Cadet Officer School was a turning point for me, because I had decided not to join the Air Force. Now, I'm more motivated than ever to stay in CAP and complete Air Force ROTC!”

Cadet Jessica Bryant, Hillsboro, Oreg.

OPPORTUNITIES

Encampments: During weeklong encampments, which are usually conducted on Air Force bases, CAP exposes cadets to Air Force values and traditions. First-year cadets develop teamwork and self-confidence in what is for many their first experience away from home. Advanced cadets apply their leadership skills while serving in positions of responsibility; the cadet cadre imparts on junior cadets what is expected of them in the Air Force Auxiliary. Nearly 6,000 cadets participate annually at about 48 different locations. Trained adults supervise and mentor the cadets.

Cadet Officer School: Leadership education culminates at the academically rigorous Cadet Officer School, conducted at the Air Force's Air University. Noted scholars in the fields of leadership theory, ethics, national security and communications provide intensive instruction. Cadets learn through lectures, seminars and hands-on exercises. Approximately 100 cadets participate each summer, with scores more completing similar programs regionally or through distance learning.

“I've learned discipline—something not stressed enough in today's society.”

Cadet Theresa Paredes, Visalia, Calif.

OUTCOMES

Civil Air Patrol produces confident young leaders who think independently and persuade others in an atmosphere of teamwork and mutual respect. Former cadets can be found in leadership positions in the military, aerospace industry, public service and the professions.

“I have matured from a shy, uncertain boy into a confident and motivated young man.”

Cadet Andy Stahl, Celina, Ohio

“What really helped me become an Air Force fighter pilot was the discipline and leadership training I experienced in CAP.”

Capt Jeff Pixley, USAF, Corona, Calif.

Cadets contribute to a team and learn to lead by practicing drill and ceremonies.



CAP develops youth into RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS

SCOPE

Civil Air Patrol inspires youth to value their citizenship and serve their neighbors. Cadets develop a sense of duty to their community by contributing to CAP's real-world emergency services and humanitarian efforts. Additionally, cadets gain an appreciation for America's role in the global aerospace community by serving as goodwill ambassadors abroad or hosting aviation-minded youth from around the world. During visits to Washington, D.C., cadets display their respect for America and commitment to public service. Responsible citizenship is the cornerstone of the cadet experience.

“IACE allowed me to explore my interest in political science. I stayed with a family near Tel Aviv, toured religious sites and met people from diverse backgrounds. The exchange propelled my study of political science. Today, I am a public affairs officer at the U.S. Department of State.”

Maj. David Staples, CAP, Washington, D.C.

OPPORTUNITIES

Emergency Services & Humanitarian Missions:

Cadets aid adult CAP volunteers in conducting search and rescue and humanitarian missions as qualified radio operators, ground team members and mission staff assistants. Cadets have been credited with locating downed aircraft, finding missing persons and saving lives.

International Air Cadet Exchange: High-achieving CAP cadets enlarge their understanding of distant cultures by serving as goodwill ambassadors and participating in aviation-related activities abroad. Hundreds more youth benefit by hosting international cadets visiting America. The exchange provides youth with an informed perspective on complex world issues, deepening their appreciation of America's role in the global aerospace community. As cadets enter adulthood, the exchange's benefits become valuable to their nation. Each summer, approximately 80 CAP cadets exchange with 80 international cadets from a dozen or more nations. The friendships they build last a lifetime.

Civic Leadership Academy: Cadets study the federal government and explore public service careers during an unforgettable week in Washington, D.C. With a curriculum emphasizing persuasive leadership, cadets develop skills they will need to become consensus-builders in their communities. As a capstone activity, cadets visit Capitol Hill and help articulate CAP's worth to America.

OUTCOMES

For America to exploit the talents of bright, capable youth, today's young people must become good citizens willing to serve their community and contribute to something larger than themselves. CAP produces leaders who are first and foremost responsible citizens.

“Being in CAP isn't just about being in an organization. It means being dedicated and putting others before yourself. People ask if I am paid. I look at them and proudly say, 'no.'”

Cadet Daniel Tebo Jr., West Alexandria, Ohio

“As a cadet, I learned that responding to an emergency is a community event. Members of the community take responsibility for helping one another.”

*Maj. Joe Curry, CAP, Assistant Chief,
CAP National Operations Center*

Cadets develop a true spirit of patriotism and are eager to honor America's democratic ideals.



CAP develops CHARACTER in youth

SCOPE

Civil Air Patrol emboldens youth, challenging them to live the cadet ethic of integrity and to embrace timeless values. CAP develops character in youth through formal values education and informal mentoring as moral dilemmas arise in cadets' lives. Our youth are the proud cadets of the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, eager to demonstrate their core values.

"I've learned to respect myself. CAP has brought out the 'true person' in me."

Cadet Anna Dell Apple, Buttonwillow, Calif.

"I am pushing myself to be a better person. I never knew how much I could accomplish until I joined CAP."

Cadet Kristin Miller, Prairieville, La.

OPPORTUNITIES

Character Development Forums: Cadets explore contemporary ethical issues through the lens of their core values: integrity, volunteer service, excellence and respect. Facilitated by a CAP chaplain or other trained adult, cadets use character development forums to discern their own values on topics of interest to them, such as peer pressure, relating to parents, tolerance, dating and more. Character development forums are held locally each month, reaching all 27,000 cadets.

Drug Demand Reduction: In partnership with the Air Force surgeon general, CAP helps curb the demand for drugs by reinforcing positive lifestyles. DDR funding, totaling \$400,000 annually and augmented by CAP and volunteer resources, helps support cadet activities that promote a drug-free ethic. Moreover, DDR activities encourage cadets to motivate their peers to follow their lead.

Cadet Competition: Eager to show off their aerospace knowledge, physical fitness and precision on the drill field, cadet drill teams and color guards vie against one another in competitions at the state, regional and national levels. Rising to the occasion with good sportsmanship, cadets amaze spectators with their esprit de corps. The competitions are varied, but this activity is all about character. Each year, 168 cadets earn the right to compete for national honors, and about 1,000 more compete locally.

OUTCOMES

CAP equips cadets to think critically about the moral dimensions of problems they encounter and then to face them with courage. Surveys indicate that cadets have a lower prevalence of lifetime alcohol, tobacco, and drug use and higher protective factor scores.* In other words, CAP cadets choose healthy lifestyles and honor timeless values.

"Without a doubt, the self-discipline, work ethic, and teamwork I learned as a cadet have stayed with me and helped me earn a master's degree."

Maj. Peter J. Turecek CAP, New York City

* Information is based on a CAP-commissioned Communities That Care Youth Survey conducted in 2001 by Channing L. Bete Co., with comparisons to the Monitoring the Future annual study of middle school students, or the CTC Matched Comparisons.

By connecting youth with positive adult role models, CAP inspires its cadets to live their core values



CAP inspires in youth a love of AVIATION & SPACE

SCOPE

Civil Air Patrol cadets experience flight firsthand through the efforts of CAP adult volunteers, aviation enthusiasts eager to share their love of flying. Often, it is through CAP that a young person receives the first flight of his/her life. Aviation education is delivered in both the classroom and the cockpit. Cadets gain an understanding of the complex forces that cause an aircraft to achieve lift and other fundamental topics such as navigation, engines and aerospace history.

“My first CAP orientation flight was in a C-130. After that, I knew I wanted to fly C-130s for the Air Force. CAP opened up a whole world of opportunity for me.”

Cadet Michael Smith, Camarillo, Calif.

“I made my first solo flight at a CAP encampment.”

Maj Eric Boe USAF, Astronaut

OPPORTUNITIES

Orientation Flights: Through orientation flights in powered and glider aircraft, cadets develop a love of aviation at no cost to them. Paired with an experienced CAP volunteer pilot, cadets help preflight the aircraft, observe takeoff procedures and while aloft actually manipulate the controls and perform basic flight maneuvers. The program also enables cadets to learn about meteorology, navigation and aircraft instrumentation and technology. Cadets fly approximately 16,000 hours in powered aircraft and 7,000 sorties in gliders each year.

Flight Academies: Having experienced the wonder of flight, advanced cadets pursue formal flight training. During powered and glider flight academies, CAP provides cadets with reasonably-priced flight instruction in an age-appropriate learning environment. As evidenced by their camaraderie and teamwork, cadets help one another master the complexities and sobering responsibilities of flight during an unforgettable week of intense training. Each summer, approximately 200 cadets learn to fly at CAP flight academies.

Flight and College Scholarships: Aviation is prohibitively expensive for most youth. In partnership with charitable organizations and colleges, CAP helps cadets pursue flight training and/or post-secondary education through scholarships. Nearly \$300,000 is available annually.

OUTCOMES

By inspiring in youth a love of aviation, CAP develops tomorrow's pilots, engineers, mechanics and aerospace enthusiasts. That affection for the airplane helps fulfill the Wright brothers' century-old dream of an air-minded citizenry.

“When I joined CAP, I didn't know much about flying, and I certainly didn't think I would end up becoming a pilot. A CAP flight scholarship sparked my love of flying. The more I flew, the more my passion for aviation grew.”

Cadet Sydney Chamberlin, Riverton, Utah

CAP's volunteer pilots hook cadets for life on the thrill of flying.



CAP introduces youth to AEROSPACE CAREERS

SCOPE

Civil Air Patrol introduces youth to career opportunities in aerospace. America needs today's generation of youth to become tomorrow's aviators, engineers, technicians, and entrepreneurs. CAP helps ensure American aerospace supremacy by introducing cadets to aerospace careers through familiarization courses, job shadowing and informal opportunities to interact with today's aerospace professionals.

“My CAP experience shaped my entire career—at age 17 I received a CAP flight scholarship, and have been flying ever since. Because of my experience as a cadet, I was influential in advocating that Dowling College provide flight scholarships to CAP cadets.”

*Martin M. Holley, Dean
Dowling College School of Aviation, Shirley, N.Y.*

OPPORTUNITIES

Air Force Career Explorations: Air Force leaders introduce cadets to career opportunities during weeklong familiarization courses each summer. Cadets experience firsthand the exciting aspects of a career that interests them. For example:

- Instructor pilots show cadets what it takes to fly Air Force jets;
- Space systems operators explain how they launch satellites into orbit;
- Pararescuemen train cadets in land navigation and wilderness skills; and
- Meteorologists teach cadets how to analyze weather patterns and spot storms.

High-Technology Career Explorations: In partnership with leading universities and businesses, cadets experience fast-growing, technology-intensive aerospace fields.

Career explorations take place at week-long academies each summer that often include significant time inside engineering and computer labs. For example:

- Engineers show cadets how to design, build and test airfoils using space-age composite materials;
- Computer scientists teach cadets how to take aerial photos and use software to track satellites; and
- Aerospace technicians explain how they manufacture, assemble and maintain aircraft.

Over 1,200 cadets participate in over 30 national cadet special activities each summer. CAP provides about \$420,000 annually to help defray cadets' expenses.

OUTCOMES

The Aerospace Industries Association reports that America is facing a shortage of aerospace professionals. CAP helps youth get excited about aviation, space and technology careers. Many in today's aerospace workforce got their start in CAP. By introducing cadets to aerospace careers, CAP helps ensure today's youth will continue America's aerospace dominance tomorrow.

“Because of CAP, I am now firmly set on becoming a U.S. Air Force officer and pilot!”

Cadet Bryce McKibben, Sammamish, Wash.

“I soloed as a CAP cadet. Now, I'm a flight instructor and looking forward to a career with an airline. I have CAP and its members to thank for getting me started in aviation.”

Capt. Chris Morris CAP, Warrensburg, Mo.

Cadets take to the labs to explore careers in engineering and aerospace technology.



CAP motivates youth for ACADEMIC SUCCESS

SCOPE

Civil Air Patrol offers middle schools and high schools an opportunity to use the Cadet Program to motivate students to succeed academically. The CAP School Program develops students' potential through aerospace, leadership and character education with an emphasis on a drug-free ethic. Designed as either an in school class or after school activity, the curriculum includes administrative guides and lesson plans that make it easy for teachers to bring the cadet experience to their school. Students may participate in the full spectrum of activities available to cadets in traditional CAP squadrons. The emphasis on discipline and teamwork helps students set goals for themselves and fulfill their academic potential.

“Being a cadet in CAP has changed my lifestyle. I have seen this in my self-confidence and openness. It helped me become more social and meet new people. I love the camaraderie and esprit de corps.”

Cadet Samantha Varney, Boscawen, N. H.

OPPORTUNITIES

Character-Building Aerospace Activities: Through CAP's school programs, young people participate in fun and interesting activities, including model rocket launches, leadership academies, color guard performances, orientation flights and everything described in this booklet. Science comes alive with aerospace, and the student body is invigorated by the cadet ethic.

Role Models and Mentors: Early adolescence is a challenging time for youth. CAP provides middle school students with opportunities to interact with older, more mature teenage cadets and adult volunteers who model positive attitudes and encourage them to grow and fulfill their potential. As the cadets advance in ability, they too become mentors, helping younger students while fulfilling new leadership challenges and responsibilities along the way.

Educational Resources and Support: CAP provides participating schools with all the tools they need to administer a successful Cadet Program. Teachers or administrators who want to make the cadet experience available at their school need only contact CAP to get started.

OUTCOMES

Reports from educators show that class attendance and academic achievement have marked improvements when CAP partners with their school. Orientation flights motivate students, providing an incentive to excel academically. One educator reported that an unruly gang was displaced by a productive middle school cadet unit because the young people enjoyed belonging to a group that had a meaningful purpose.

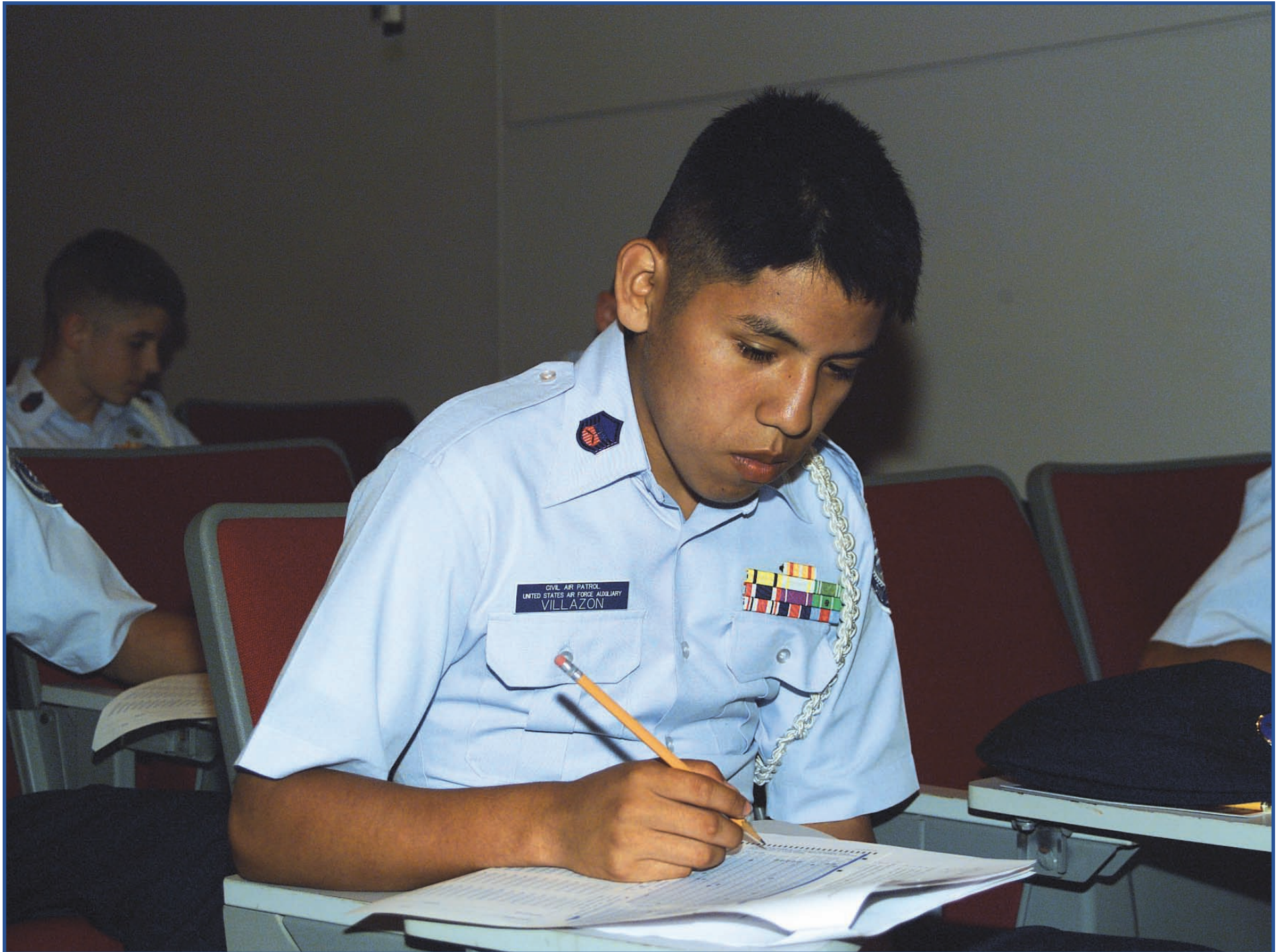
“I am able to handle situations, especially difficult ones, more easily than I used to. I am more confident with myself and with the decisions I make.”

Cadet Shane Bordonaro, Winsted, Conn.

“I may only be 12, but I take full pride when I am in my uniform.”

Cadet Lauren Duray, Hoffman Estates, Ill.

The discipline and confidence cadets develop in CAP puts them on the right course for academic success.



**“I am pushing myself to be a better person.
I never knew how much I could accomplish
until I joined Civil Air Patrol.”**
- Cadet Kristin Miller, Prairieville, Louisiana



CIVIL AIR PATROL CADET PROGRAMS
To learn more, call 1-800-FLY-2338 or click on cap.gov/cadets