

# CIVIL AIR PATROL MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION



Are you looking for a way to make a difference in your community? Do you want to honor and serve America? Then become a volunteer in the Civil Air Patrol.



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

Dear Future CAP Member:

We appreciate your interest in joining Civil Air Patrol. Please take a few moments and review the enclosed information regarding membership in CAP. Through the voluntary public services of our 61,000 members, CAP makes a positive impact in communities across the nation through aerospace education, cadet programs, disaster relief and search and rescue missions.

In CAP, it is all about the professional volunteers: everyday people who answer our nation's call for missions essential to the education of our youth and the safety of American citizens.

Today, CAP handles 90 percent of inland search and rescue missions, with approximately 55 lives saved per year. Our members are generally the first on the scene transmitting satellite digital images of the damage within seconds around the world and providing disaster relief and emergency services following natural and manmade disasters, including such phenomena as 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, Texas and Oklahoma wildfires, tornadoes in the south and central U.S., and North Dakota flash flooding, as well as humanitarian missions along the U.S. and Mexican border.

In addition, CAP members are dedicated to counterdrug reconnaissance and to teaching a new generation about aerospace and its impact on our future. And our cadet programs ensure our youth receive some of the finest leadership training the nation has to offer.

You can find more information about membership in CAP, including answers to frequently asked questions, at [www.gocivilairpatrol.com](http://www.gocivilairpatrol.com). Enter your city and state or zip code in the unit locator on the home page to find a CAP unit near you. If you have any questions after reading this brochure, you can send an e-mail to [membershipdevelopment@capnhq.gov](mailto:membershipdevelopment@capnhq.gov).

As the National Commander of this outstanding group of citizen volunteers, I invite you to apply for membership. You have many options with Civil Air Patrol - you can become a patron member, an active member involved in a local unit, an aerospace education member, or a cadet sponsor. We encourage you to give back to America and volunteer with Civil Air Patrol in one of these ways. Your support is needed so that we may continue the great work of our organization. Thank you for your interest in CAP.

Semper Vigilans!  
CAP National Commander

## What is Civil Air Patrol?



Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with about 61,000 volunteer members nationwide. CAP performs 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and is credited by the AFRCC with saving about 55 lives per year. Its volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and counter-drug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to more than 26,000 young people currently participating in CAP cadet programs. CAP has been performing missions for America for over 70 years.

Civil Air Patrol also has a National Headquarters that is located at Maxwell AFB, AL in Montgomery, AL. CAP has approximately 150 paid staff members that help administer the CAP program.

## How CAP Began



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.

## Civil Air Patrol Missions

Today, CAP no longer sinks submarines, but has three very specific missions. All CAP activities fall under three mission areas: aerospace education, cadet programs and emergency services.

### 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 have an appreciation for and knowledge of aerospace issues. To advance to a higher rank within the organization, members are required to participate in the educational program. Aerospace Educators at CAP's National Headquarters 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, educators use CAP aerospace curricular products in classrooms across America to promote aerospace to thousands of young people. These teachers highlight basic aerospace knowledge and focus on advances in aerospace technology. CAP's aerospace education members receive more than 25 free teaching aids, as well as lesson plans and other classroom materials.



For more information call 877-227-9142 ext 403.

### 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. Through Civil Air Patrol's Cadet Program, young people develop leadership skills, investigate the fundamentals of aerospace science, acquire the habit of exercising regularly, solidify their character, and participate in exciting hands-on activities that prepare them to become responsible citizens. Thousands of young people from 12 through age 20 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.

CAP and its sponsoring organizations also offer numerous academic scholarship opportunities for cadets. Those cadets who earn cadet officer status may enter the Air Force as an E3 (airman first



# Civil Air Patrol Missions

class) rather than an E1 (airman basic).

Whatever your interests – survival training, flight training, leadership – there’s a place for you in CAP’s cadet program. Each year, cadets also have the opportunity to participate in special activities at the local, state, regional or national level.



## Emergency Services

Growing from its World War II experience, CAP has continued to save lives and assist communities through a myriad of emergency services and operational missions.

Perhaps best known for its search and rescue efforts, CAP flies more than 90 percent of all inland search and rescue missions directed by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. Outside the continental United States, CAP supports the Joint Rescue Coordination Centers in Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

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, FEMA, FAA, National



Transportation Safety Board and the U.S. Coast Guard. CAP also 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. CAP joined the “war on drugs” in 1986 when, pursuant to congressional authorization, CAP signed an agreement with the 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 over 61,000 well trained

volunteers in 1,500 units 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.

## Senior Member

CAP senior membership is open to adults 18 years or older. Members are provided with extensive training and education in more than 20 different fields. Whatever your skill or talent, there's a place for you in CAP.



## Cadet Member

CAP cadet membership is open to young people 12-18 years old. A cadet can remain in the program until age 21. Cadets progress through a 16-step program of aviation and aerospace activities as well as learning invaluable skills in leadership and teamwork. Not only that, but cadets have fun - in the first year alone, a cadet can:

- Go flying
- Earn rank and awards
- Learn color guard
- Launch Rockets
- Go to an encampment and more...



membership is available with a few additional steps. Patron members receive the quarterly *Civil Air Patrol Volunteer* magazine and access to membership benefits. Join online by clicking on "National Patron" on [www.gocivilairpatrol.com](http://www.gocivilairpatrol.com).

## Cadet Sponsor Member

Parents, Grandparents and legal guardians have an opportunity to participate in CAP with their cadet through a Cadet Sponsor Membership. You may serve as chaperones, provide transportation or supervise cadets during squadron activities. Cadet Sponsors pay discounted annual membership fees and have a limited time commitment, but this membership allows you to volunteer with your cadet. Ask the squadron commander about becoming a Cadet Sponsor.

## National Patron Member

If you would like to volunteer with CAP, but now isn't the right time, then the National Patron membership is for you. You can still support the humanitarian missions, emergency response efforts and cadet programs of CAP with your annual dues even though you can't yet make the commitment to volunteer. The option to transfer to active

## Aerospace Education Member

If you are an educator, and enjoy hands-on activities or demonstrations, consider joining as a CAP AEM. If you have further questions about joining as an AEM, please contact National Headquarters at 877-227-9142 ext. 403 or [ae@capnhq.gov](mailto:ae@capnhq.gov).



# Frequently Asked Questions

## How do I join CAP?

Begin by visiting the local units (also known as squadrons) in your area. If there are several units to choose from, we recommend visiting each one. Each squadron will have different activities and volunteer opportunities, so choose the unit that best suits your needs.

Enclosed in this packet is a Squadron Locator sheet with unit contact and meeting information. All of our members are volunteers, so the phone number listed will probably be a member's home or cell phone. Also, the squadron may only be at the meeting location during meeting times, so someone may not be available during non-meeting times.

If you have trouble reaching someone, contact the Wing Headquarters for further assistance or email [membershipdevelopment@capnhq.gov](mailto:membershipdevelopment@capnhq.gov). Contact numbers are on the back of this brochure.

Once you choose a squadron, the commander will provide you with the paperwork and information necessary to complete the application process. This includes a membership application, fingerprint card (for adult members), and annual dues.

## How much does membership cost?

Annual membership dues vary by state and consist of National, Regional, and Wing dues combined. The average amount can range from \$50 and up for new adult members and about \$30 and up for cadets. Contact your local unit to find out the exact dues amount for your area. Additional costs may include uniform items, encampments and other activities.



## Do members have to wear a uniform?

Cadets must wear a CAP uniform, unless otherwise directed by the squadron commander or activity director. New cadets may be eligible to receive their first uniform from the United States Air Force at no charge.



Cadets can order their free blue uniform through the member website after their application is processed and they are provided with a CAP identification number.

Adult members may be required to wear a uniform when performing official CAP missions. There are multiple uniform styles for adults and the commander usually determines which uniform should be worn at the meetings or activities.

## Do I have an obligation to the military?

No. Membership in Civil Air Patrol does not obligate you to any military service; nor will you be called to service or deployed. Membership does not entitle you to the same benefits given to active duty and retired military.



## How much time will I have to give?

Most units meet for about 2 - 3 hours weekly with special activities scheduled during weekends and the summer. Like many volunteer organizations, the amount of time volunteered varies by member.

## Will CAP train me to be a pilot?

CAP does not normally provide flight training to members, but there may be opportunities to train at reduced rates through a local Aero Club or from flight instructors who are also members.



## I'm not a pilot. What can I do in CAP?

There are many volunteer opportunities in CAP that do not require a pilot's license. Some opportunities include: recruiting, communications, logistics, personnel, public affairs, aerospace education, search and rescue and more. Ask your local unit what positions are available.

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

To be eligible to fly a CAP plane, the pilot must have 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 will 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 200 Pilot In Command hours and 50 cross-country PIC hours to serve as a mission pilot. For more details, visit [www.gocivilairpatrol.com](http://www.gocivilairpatrol.com) and select CAP pilots.



# Wing Contact Information

## North East Region

MA .....(781) 225-6540  
ME.....(207) 626-7830  
NJ.....(609) 723-8200  
PA.....(717) 861-2335  
RI.....(401) 267-3130  
VT.....(802) 660-5904  
CT.....(860) 262-8057  
NH.....(603) 271-3225  
NY .....(914) 683-1000

## Middle East Region

DC.....(202) 767-4405  
DE.....(302) 322-5493  
MD .....(410) 553-6394  
NC .....(336) 570-6894  
SC .....(803) 822-5470  
VA .....(804) 743-2220  
WV .....(304) 343-8866

## Great Lakes Region

MI.....(586) 239-2270  
OH .....(614) 338-8198  
WI .....(608) 242-3067  
IL .....(630) 584-0177  
KY .....(502) 564-0661  
IN .....(317) 924-0735

## South East Region

AL .....(334) 953-6465  
FL.....(305) 678-4090  
GA.....(770) 428-9031  
MS.....(601) 353-1020  
PR.....(787) 724-0124 x1034  
TN .....(865) 342-4880

## North Central Region

IA.....(515) 897-2530  
KS.....(785) 825-0009  
MN.....(651) 291-0462  
MO .....(660) 687-3847  
ND .....(701) 328-8192  
NE .....(402) 309-7665  
SD .....(605) 393-4215

## South West Region

AZ .....(623) 856-9964  
AR.....(501) 376-1729  
LA .....(225) 359-9497  
NM .....(505) 268-5678  
OK.....(405) 736-6044  
TX.....(254) 867-9328

## Rocky Mountain Region

CO .....(719) 556-8280  
ID.....(208) 878-8880  
UT.....(801) 533-5456  
WY.....(307) 773-4405  
MT.....(877) 529-5538

## Pacific Region

AK.....(907) 551-3147  
CA .....(818) 989-8100  
HI .....(808) 836-3417  
NV .....(775) 358-3700  
OR .....(541) 688-9408  
WA .....(253) 982-7774



[www.gocivilairpatrol.com](http://www.gocivilairpatrol.com)

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