FACT SHEET | 2025

CIVIL AIR PATROL
U.S. AIR FORCE AUXILIARY






Civil Air Patrol: A Force for Good

About CAP

Civil Air Patrol is a congressionally chartered, federally funded, 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation and the civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force.

Operating in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia and serving communities nationwide, CAP's aviation-connected, volunteer professionals and engaged community members from a wide range of backgrounds and professions perform Air Force-assigned missions as a Total Force partner. These missions include search and rescue and other emergency services, as well as disaster response, which CAP conducts for states and local communities as a nonprofit organization.

Civil Air Patrol's missions leverage highly skilled personnel, low-cost aircraft and vehicles, specialized communications, advanced imaging capabilities, and other cutting-edge technologies. CAP's core cadet and aerospace education programs are also highly effective, providing a variety of innovative youth development initiatives and award-winning STEM curricula.

Returning nearly $4 in value for every dollar spent, CAP provides unequaled value to our communities, states, and nation as a force for good.

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CAP National Headquarters:
105 S. Hansell St., Bldg. 714
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-5937
877-227-9142

Volunteers Serving America's Communities, Saving Lives, and Shaping Futures.

Our Impact

34
Saved 34 lives through Air Force-assigned search and rescue efforts in 2024, thanks in large part to the assistance of CAP's National Cell Phone Forensics and Radar Analysis teams.

544
Operated the largest fleet of single-engine piston aircraft in the world, with 544 available.

28K
Provided 27,744 orientation flights to CAP cadets, as well as Air Force ROTC and Junior ROTC cadets, in 2024.

69K
Maintained a volunteer force of 69,049 youth and adult members in 1,428 squadrons nationwide.

103K
Flew 102,642 hours in 2024, conducting Air Force-assigned missions as well as providing critical support for states and communities.

600K
Supported community schools, teachers, students, homeschooled youth, and CAP cadets through a variety of programs and curricula, affecting 600,000 K-12 students nationwide.

281K
Contributed thousands of volunteer hours in the past year, serving the disaster relief, emergency services, and youth development needs of their communities, states, and nation. Members' collective service was conservatively valued at $280,813,723.

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Developing Tomorrow's Leaders Today

EMERGENCY SERVICES

- Conducts 90% of inland search and rescue in the U.S. as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and other agencies. CAP supported 395 such missions last year.
- Coordinates Air Force-assigned missions through CAP's National Operations Center at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, at a cost of about $180 per flying hour.
- Has 5,615 aircrew members and 39,242 emergency responders trained to Federal Emergency Management Agency standards.
- Provides more than 400 chaplains and 700 character development instructors who minister to youth and adult members and help comfort survivors and victims of disasters.
- Performs aerial reconnaissance for homeland security.
- Provides air intercept training, impact assessment, light transport, communications support, and low-level route surveys for the Air Force.
- Provides disaster-relief photography and video support to local, state, and national agencies.
- Transports time-sensitive medical materials, blood products, and body tissues when commercial resources are unavailable.
- Maintains an extensive VHF and HF communications network.

AEROSPACE EDUCATION

- Educates adult and cadet members and the community on the importance of aerospace.
- Develops, publishes, and distributes national academic standards-based science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) aerospace education curricula for K-12 classrooms.
- Generates interest in STEM careers through aviation-, space-, and technology-focused activities and CAP "STEM Kits" associated with astronomy, flight simulation, model and remote-control aircraft, robotics, rocketry, weather, hydraulic engineering, and computer programming.
- Provides educators with more than 40 free educational programs and products as well as services that include teacher orientation flights.

CADET PROGRAMS

- Attracts more than 32,000 youth ages 12-20 as participants in its cadet programs.
- Educates youth in four main program areas — leadership, aerospace, fitness, and character development.
- Enriches school curricula through after-school programs.
- Offers orientation flights in powered aircraft and gliders and also offers flight training scholarships.
- Provides activities and competitions for cadets at the local, state, regional, and national levels.
- Makes opportunities for community involvement available through color guard/drill teams and emergency service missions.
- Exposes thousands of cadets to cyber defense careers through CyberPatriot, the Air and Space Forces Association's National Youth Cyber Security Competition.
- Inspires CAP cadets to attend all service academies. CAP cadets constitute approximately 10% percent of each U.S. Air Force Academy class.
- Awards college scholarships in flight and academic opportunities to help enhance the nation's future workforce.

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