

Parents' Preview

The definitive guide to the care and feeding your Civil Air Patrol Cadet

1 APR 2010

Special points of interest:

- We are Civil Air Patrol squadron charter number RMR-CO-179 (Rocky Mountain Region, Colorado Wing, Squadron 179).
- Our squadron motto is "Leadership, Service with Honor"
- Excused absences are always allowed for illness, family emergencies or obligations, academic study, employment, school-related athletic or extra-curricular activities, and conflicting Civil Air Patrol activities.
- Cadets must notify the next highest member of their chain of command prior to any absence.
- Promotions occur on the fourth Thursday of every month beginning at 8:30 p.m.
- Consider joining our parent's committee or as a cadet sponsor member!

What is an element leader anyway? And other important questions.

Your son or daughter has taken the plunge and joined the Civil Air Patrol. In a few short weeks, they will begin speaking in tongues, saying things like "Charlie Flight", "gigline", "SQTR", "bivouac" and the ever-popular "dress right dress." What's a poor parent to do? Who provides the Universal Translator?

Hopefully this brief newsletter will help you understand the basics of the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program, and how things work here at the Pueblo Eagles Composite Squadron.

While we think of your kids as "our cadets", we always remember that they are your son or daughter first — you merely loan him or her to us once or twice a week! We promise to return them a little better than you found them each time. The most important things that we strive to teach cadets involve responsibility and leadership — to be successful here, it's important that cadets learn and grow in these areas. When your cadet goes through uniform inspection, it's not a reflection of how well Mom ironed his blue shirt, or whether Dad polished the combat boots correctly. The cadet is responsible for the uniform! Please see Important Questions, page 2.



Ugh! Uniforms?!?!?

As a military auxiliary, we emphasize uniform wear. Uniforms drive moms and dads nuts, and it doesn't help that our CAP regulations are written in a very confusing manner and need to be updated. We will try to train your cadet on what they need to know. You may need to help with uniform acquisition and maintenance for a little while before your son or daughter figures it out.

There are three basic uniforms in our squadron: "Blues" or "Class A" uniforms, BDUs, and the "squadron alternate" uniform.

Please see Ugh! Uniforms!, page 4.

Important Questions

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Cadets have to be able to demonstrate responsibility in order to be promoted. "Mom didn't iron my shirt for me," won't satisfy the flight sergeant! Help your cadet by teaching them responsibility for their uniforms and for being prepared for squadron meetings by bringing required items!

Organization

Your cadet will be assigned to the "Tango Flight", which is our training flight for all new members. Cadets in Tango flight receive a lot more hands-on instruction with experienced cadets and senior members, to help them learn how things work in the squadron before we turn them loose in the Charlie Flight (Cadet flight). While a member of Tango Flight, your cadet is supervised by a flight sergeant, who is the first person in their "chain of command." Later, when they graduate to Charlie Flight, they will report to an Element Leader (who is in charge of four to ten cadets), who reports to a flight sergeant. These are the people your cadet need to call or e-mail when they have questions or if they are going to miss a squadron meeting or activity.

If the element leader or flight sergeant is unavailable, your cadet may try to contact the Flight Commander or Cadet Commander.



Squadron emblem

You will eventually get a squadron roster which includes all of the names and contact information for these people, but for now, just know that there are people who your cadet should report to when they have questions or concerns. It is important for your cadet to learn how to "follow" by reporting to the chain of command correctly, because one day soon, he will begin to lead by serving in one or more of these positions!

Parents are not CAP members and can ignore the chain of command! Feel free to talk to the Deputy Commander for Cadets or the Squadron Commander if you have questions or concerns about squadron operations at any time.

About the Cadet Program

The cadet program is based on tested principles which allow your child to learn, grow, and develop as future leaders. National regulations set out the guidelines for the program, and it's up to the local squadron members to carry it out. There are five basic areas in every cadet program:

Leadership—Cadets learn "followership", teamwork, drill (or how to march in formation) initially. As they progress, they will begin to lead small groups of cadets, then larger groups, perhaps some day leading the entire cadet flight!

Aerospace Education—Aviation and space studies serve as the "common bond" in our program—all of our members have a love for flying and space. Cadets will learn more about aerospace through required tests and by opportunities to fly both in gliders and powered aircraft.

Physical Fitness — CAP stresses regular physical activity, and a test is required for each promotion. The first few tests are not very difficult, but they do get harder. Your cadet will not succeed by showing up for PT once per month; they should be improving their fitness at school or at home, because two hours per month of fitness will not help your cadet learn lifelong fitness!

Moral Leadership — Our chaplain or moral leadership officer guides cadets in discussions about ethics, leadership, morals and values as they relate to our society and our program. The discussions are guided by a national program and are not based on religion.

Activities — This is the "fun stuff." We do things outside of meetings at least once per month, such as bivouacs (military for "campout"), color guards and drill teams, aerospace field trips, search and rescue operations and training exercises, with the occasional picnic or movie thrown in.

Communicating With Parents

We try our best to keep you in the loop about what's going on with the squadron. Nobody likes to find out two days before Saturday that "Junior" is supposed to be going to Boulder to fly gliders all day! We also know that pre-teens and teenagers are poor communicators! Therefore, we have several ways to try to let you know what is going on.

First, if you let the squadron activities officer or squadron commander know your e-mail address, we will add you to our e-mailing list for all squadron notices.

Second, our squadron website has a parents' section, parents.puebloegles.us, which posts up-to-date information about our future squadron activities. You can also access the squadron events calendar at www.puebloegles.us. For more general questions about Civil Air Patrol check out www.gocivilairpatrol.com.

You will also receive a squadron roster with phone numbers for all of the adults who work with your child.

For certain events, we will send home a permission slip for you to sign and have your cadet return. Please do so promptly — we need these slips so that we can file required safety reports with Colo-

rado Wing, and if we don't file the reports, nobody gets to go do the fun things!

Remember, however, that communication is part of the responsibility we are trying to teach cadets. Your cadet needs to notify their chain of command when they won't be able to attend a meeting or activity, otherwise their absence is unexcused and they may be ineligible for promotion. The buck stops with the cadet, and if they don't know where to find something out, they need to

ask!

Deadlines and Timeliness

Cadets are held responsible for meeting agreed-upon deadlines and for being on time to activities. Since most cadets aren't driving yet, we rely on you to make sure they are on time. Since we ask you to be on time, we will do our best to finish on time! Remember that ten minutes early to an event is better than on time — if we get started sooner, we can finish sooner! Flight operations don't always run on time, so when we are running late or cancelling, we will let you know as soon as we can!

Emergency Notification Data

Every cadet is required to carry a CAP Form 60 to outside activities — this form has emergency contact information as well as medical information and doctor contact information. Please help your ca-

det by downloading a copy and filling it out, and making sure they take the required numbers of copies to a squadron event. Cadets must always bring their CAP ID card, a notebook or notepad, pen or pencil, required equipment (such as backpacks, etc.), and two five dollar bills. Why the money? So they can eat lunch, of course!

So, What is the Real Cost of Civil Air Patrol Membership?

You've paid your \$37 for the first year's CAP dues, and your \$20 for squadron dues for the year. What else should you be prepared for?

Uniforms will be the biggest expense, along with accessories for those uniforms. See the uniform discussion for a breakdown of actual costs.

Otherwise, some lunch money here or there, and your cadet should be ready to fully participate!

If your cadet wants to attend encampment or a National Cadet Special Activity, these summer programs usually last about a week and average between \$150-\$300 (flight schools are closer to \$750-\$1000). You will need to cover air fare and some living expenses for activities not in driving distance. These are optional activities (except Wing Encampment which is required for promotion to Cadet Second Lieutenant).

Thank You!

Thanks for being an important part of our squadron — and letting us borrow your son or daughter for a few hours every week!



Civil Air Patrol Seal

Ugh! Uniforms!?!?!?

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The squadron alternate uniform is the one you will buy while your cadet serves in Tango Flight. It consists of an orange squadron ballcap, black squadron T-shirt, your own blue jeans in good repair, and plain white athletic shoes.

The BDUs (Battle Dress Uniform) are camouflage. We have many sets in our squadron supply that can be issued to your cadet — if we don't have his or her size, you might need to buy some at a surplus store, military base, or online (costs range from \$20 to \$60 for a full set). Optional "M-65" field jackets can be purchased for cold weather gear (again from \$20 to \$65). This uniform will require sewing on of an ultramarine "CAP tape", a Colorado Wing patch, an American Flag patch, the squadron patch, and a personalized nametape (i.e. Jones). All of these items except the nametape can be purchased from the squadron as part of a "new member uniform package." See the squadron supply officer for current pricing. BDUs are machine-washable and should be cleaned and pressed (but not starched). Your cadet will also need black combat boots or jungle boots to wear with the BDUs, which can run anywhere from \$20 to \$200 or more depending upon where you purchase. Glenn's Army Surplus in Colorado Springs, and Colorado Springs Surplus in Old Colorado City, are two excellent sources for good condition used com-

bat boots! Check them out. The light-weight "jungle boots" are acceptable but not recommended, especially if your cadet wants to participate in search and rescue missions. Boots should be spit shined using good old fashioned Kiwi polish — we'll teach them how in the next few weeks!

The "Class A" or "Blues" uniform will be issued to your cadet by the Air Force after you order it online once the cadet has joined. You may want to buy another set to get him or her started right away, or just to have an extra set. These uniform items can be purchased at the Air Force Academy or Peterson AFB (or Fort Carson) MCSS with your CAPID card, at a cost of around \$20 for shirts (\$40 for long-sleeve) and around \$45 for pants. The optional service coat can be anywhere from \$100 to \$200 depending upon which one you buy. The shirts are machine washable, but service jackets and pants (flight caps and ties also) must be dry-cleaned. Make sure you remove any pin-on insignia before you wash! You will also need to purchase appropriate dress shoes (plain black oxfords) to go with this uniform. Pay for a tailor to hem the pants... trust us,

unless you are a professional sewer!

Cadets will need to order a three-line blue nameplate (i.e. Smith) from Vanguard Industries for the blues uniform. Other required items can be pur-

chased in the new member uniform kit and include CAP "cutouts", the enlisted flight cap device, a mounting bar and Curry Achievement Ribbon, and Cadet Airman insignia.

Sewing

The Colorado Wing patch is sewn 1/2" below the left shoulder seam, centered on the seam (do NOT use the natural crease, it is not centered). The flag patch is centered 1/2" below the right shoulder seam. The CAP Tape is sewn resting on top of the left breast pocket (wearer's left), while the name tape (i.e. Jones) is resting on top of the right breast pocket. The squadron patch is sewn centered between the flap of the right breast pocket and the bottom of that pocket.

Do NOT cut the ends of name-tapes—instead, fold them back on themselves so that the name on the tape is centered over the pocket, then sew it on with the ends folded under (this prevents fraying of the edges). It doesn't hurt to wash the nametapes before sewing them on to avoid puckering.

Jackets

Warm jackets are required between October 1 and April 30 of each year — and they need not be a uniform jacket, just warm!

Feel free to ask any senior member if you have uniform questions. It's better to ask than to guess and cost yourself unnecessary money!



DDR Program Patch