



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Seven Local Teens Get off the Ground with a Great Start

AZLE, Tex. (December 15, 2020) – Seven Azle Composite Squadron cadets recently completed the Cadet Great Start program with Civil Air Patrol (CAP) and have earned the rank of Cadet Airman.



Pictured Left to Right: Deputy Commander for Cadets - Major Brian Kilian, Cadet Marris, Cadet Moore, Cadet Perrien, Cadet Powers, Cadet Day, Squadron Commander - Captain DuRall, Cadet Commander - Cadet Holz (Not pictured Cadet Woody and Cadet Garrett).

The Cadet Great Start program gave these teens and their parents a comprehensive introduction to life as a Civil Air Patrol cadet. When asked how this program prepared them for becoming a cadet, the teens said they felt warmly welcomed by everyone and indicated their appreciation for the patience and leadership shown by the higher ranking cadets who taught many of the classes. They also mentioned having respect for the leadership shown by the senior members who were able to explain topics in more detail when necessary and keep the classes running smoothly and on schedule.

In the five week long course, prospective cadets were introduced to various elements of the CAP Cadet Program – Leadership, Aerospace Education, Physical Fitness, Character Development,

and Emergency Services. A resounding theme that echoed through the entire class when asked was one of teamwork. Several of the activities these new cadets participated in required them to work together – sometimes one on one, but other times in groups. In addition to these teamwork activities, they observed teamwork in action between the higher ranking cadets and senior members of the squadron.

From learning to wear the uniforms properly to interacting with other ranking cadets and senior members, these teens emerged with self-confidence, goals, and equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary for completing their first Achievement, the John Curry award. Major General John F. Curry served as CAP's first National Commander in the early days of WWII. Under his leadership, CAP aircrews conducted missions of national importance including aerial search missions, border observation, towing aerial targets for the Navy, and searching for Nazi submarines. Earning the John Curry award signifies a cadet has displayed a positive optimistic attitude and is enthusiastic and team-oriented. Along with the award comes a voucher that may be used to purchase a cadet's needed uniform items.

CAP Cadet NCOs and officers, working under the supervision of adult CAP Senior Members, applied their leadership skills through organizing and providing the fun and challenging classes and activities. Not only did the Cadet Great Start program provide an opportunity for new cadets and their parents to learn more about Civil Air Patrol, it gave existing cadets a chance to teach, mentor, and be positive role models. Both the new cadets and their parents felt the Great Start program gave them an excellent view into the CAP program overall which most did not have before attending the Great Start program. From this course, three parents were so excited about the program they joined the squadron as senior members who volunteer to fulfill not only the day-to-day missions of running a squadron to provide support to the cadet program, but who will have opportunities to serve as aircrew or ground team members during search and rescue or damage missions.

From becoming more physically fit to obtaining the highest cadet rank of Cadet Colonel (Spatz Award), each new cadet has set goals for themselves that will not only help them advance in the CAP program, but goals that will translate into succeeding in school, life, and careers outside of Civil Air Patrol.

By completing the Cadet Great Start program and its membership requirements along with achieving their first rank, these cadets will get a bird's eye view of the city in the next several weeks with an orientation ride in a CAP aircraft with an experienced CAP pilot.

Civil Air Patrol is the longtime auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force and as such is a valued member of its Total Force. In its auxiliary role, CAP operates a fleet of 560 single-engine aircraft and 1,994 small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS). It performs about 90% 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 an average of 82 lives annually. CAP's 60,000 members also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. Operating as a nonprofit organization, CAP also plays a leading role in STEM/aerospace education, and its members serve as mentors to about 25,000 young people participating in CAP's Cadet Programs.

Visit www.CAP.News or www.GoCivilAirPatrol.com for more information.

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