CIVIL AIR PATROL
U.S. AIR FORCE AUXILIARY

News Release

Press Contact
Ronda Kilian
Mobile: 1+ 602-909-6531
Email: ronda.kilian@txwg.cap.gov

Azle Composite Squadron Announces February 2025 Cadet Great Start Class

AZLE, Tex. (December 1, 2024) – Azle Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol, announces their next Cadet Great Start class to begin February 4, 2025. Class size is limited and signups are required to ensure proper planning of resources. Interested teens may sign up through the squadron website azle.cap.gov, Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/azlecap or send the squadron an email at azle@txwg.cap.gov.

TX456 holds these classes twice each year. Students in this class will begin as a training flight and work through their first rank of Airman with the John Curry Award at the end of the five-week course. Upon completion of the Great Start class, the training flight will join the rest of the squadron and participate in activities related to Leadership, Character Development, Aerospace, Emergency Services, Safety, Fitness, STEM, and other topics. In addition, these cadets become eligible to attend Encampment which helps further develop their leadership skills, expands their knowledge of Civil Air Patrol, and opens the doors to National Cadet Special Activities in aviation, military, leadership, and technology.

The Cadet Great Start program will give teens and their parents a comprehensive introduction to life as a Civil Air Patrol cadet. Previous graduates of the program when asked about their experience 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 are introduced to various elements of the CAP Cadet Program – Leadership, Aerospace Education, Physical Fitness, Character Development, and Emergency Services. Teamwork is a central theme of the class with many activities requiring the prospective cadets to work together – sometimes one on one, but sometimes in groups. In addition to these teamwork activities, they observe 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, teens emerge 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.

By completing the Cadet Great Start program and its membership requirements along with achieving their first rank, cadets will be eligible for an orientation ride in a CAP aircraft with an experienced CAP pilot.

About Civil Air Patrol

Founded in 1941 and established as the official civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force seven years later, Civil Air Patrol is chartered by Congress as a nonprofit organization for the purposes of youth development, aerospace education, and to promote general aviation. In an auxiliary role as a Total Force partner of the Air Force, CAP operates the world's largest fleet of single-engine aircraft for search and rescue, disaster relief, training, and education. Civil Air Patrol is dedicated to serving America's communities, saving lives, and shaping futures.

Visit azle.cap.gov or GoCivilAirPatrol.com for more information. Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube.