



**CIVIL AIR PATROL**  
**SWR-NM-024 Las Cruces Composite Squadron**  
**1 August 2023**



**SUBJECT: CADET PROGRAM FY 2023**

**INTRODUCTION.** Our Cadet Program helps young adults:

- Develop skills for leadership in a diverse world;
- Learn about aviation, space, and cyber, and explore related careers;
- Adopt a physically-fit, drug-free lifestyle; and
- Develop moral reasoning skills and live Core Values.

**TOP FEATURES.** The top features drawing youth to Civil Air Patrol (CAP) are:

- An enthusiasm for aerospace;
- An opportunity for flight training; and
- An interest in military-style leadership education.

**MISSION.** Develop character through leadership training while providing service to our nation, the United States Air Force, and the local community. Transform youth into dynamic Americans and aerospace leaders.

**MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY.** United States citizens, or aliens admitted for permanent residence, between the ages of 12 and 18 years of age are eligible for initial cadet membership. Individuals who join CAP as a cadet prior to their 18th birthday may remain cadets until their 21st birthday.

**CADET PROGRAM GOALS.** Our program goals are to

- Teach cadets teamwork, communications skills, self-discipline and self-confidence;
- Expand cadets' knowledge, skills, and attitudes to understand aerospace principles and the total impact of aerospace power upon society;
- Assist the cadet to develop a personal ethical foundation and an understanding of moral issues through discussion and debate;
- Promote physical fitness, developing lifelong habits of regular exercise; and
- Encourage cadets' participation in special activities and programs, learning leadership principles and aerospace science.

**MILESTONES.** Through study and performance, cadets work through a series of achievements and milestone awards. As cadets progress, they advance in grade, increasing the scope of their leadership responsibilities. They earn awards and become

eligible for nationally-sponsored special activities and scholarships. Those who later choose military service may earn early promotion.

**ELEMENTS.** The Cadet Program accomplishes its mission of developing young, dynamic aerospace leaders through the application of the program's Five Elements:

- **Leadership** (Lt Col Orton) – Leadership training helps cadets to think independently and to lead others in an atmosphere of teamwork and mutual respect. CAP introduces cadets to the principles of leadership through self-paced study, classroom instruction and hands-on opportunities leading other cadets in real-world challenges. As cadets progress in experience and grade, they become part of the Cadet Leadership Team with the opportunity to train, mentor, and lead other cadets. With continued advancement, cadets become a larger part of the decision making and planning process. Senior members, acting as mentors and instructors, help the cadets develop their leadership skills.

- **Aerospace Education** (Lt Col Fisher) – Aerospace education inspires a love of aviation and space technology, provides a foundation in aerospace's scientific principles, and introduces aerospace career opportunities. Education includes self-study and group-study methods.



- **Character Development** (Capt Salome) – Character development encourages cadets to make a commitment to live CAP's Core Values, and gives them the ability to think critically about moral and ethical issues. CAP develops character in cadets through mentoring, character education and activities that promote a drug-free ethic. Core Values embrace Integrity, Excellence, Respect and Volunteer Service.
- **Physical Fitness** (Maj Bigger) – Physical fitness encourages cadets to develop a habit of regular exercise. The fitness program includes drills, games, and other activities which promote physical fitness, confidence, and teamwork.
- **Activities** (Maj Bigger) – Activities sponsored by the Las Cruces Composite Squadron allow cadets to apply their leadership skills, explore aerospace careers, and practice the cadet ethic. The New Mexico Wing also plans and sponsors state-wide activities. For those cadets who meet the prerequisites, national-level activities provide opportunities for advanced and more intensive training, allowing cadets to network with those from other States and Territories.

## MONTHLY TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.

- Leadership - Classroom instruction, drill and ceremonies, team leadership problems, and similar activities (1.5 hours per month; two 45-min. sessions suggested);
- Aerospace - Classroom instruction, “AEX” activities, tours, rocketry, cyber defense, and similar activities (1.5 hours per month; two 45-min. sessions suggested);
- Fitness - Classroom instruction, fitness games and activities, fitness testing, and similar activities (1 hour per month); and
- Character - Character activities using approved resources only (1 hour per month).

These guidelines provide a baseline for cadet training, expressing CAP’s desire for units to offer activities in each of the four main program elements each month.

## INDICATORS OF SUCCESS.

Key indicators of success include:

- Cadet promotions;
- Quality cadet unit award; and
- Favorable 360-degree assessments of individual cadets’ fulfillment of learning goals.



## LAS CRUCES COMPOSITE SQUADRON GOALS FOR FY 2023

- **FIRST QUARTER (October – December).** The Squadron will offer lessons in aerospace education, character development, leadership, physical fitness, and drill. Its aerospace education instruction will emphasize preparation for powered flight. It will offer orientation rides for every cadet. It will also offer technician training for Cadets interested in the sUAS (Drone) program. It will work toward at least two cadets receiving the **Curry Award** before the end of the quarter.

Achievement 1	
Major General John F. Curry	
Eligibility Requirements	Completed
<b>Leadership - Task 1</b> L2L Ch. 1 Open-Book Test or Cadet Interactive	
<b>Leadership - Task 2</b> Drill & Ceremonies Performance Test	
<b>Aerospace</b> No Requirement	N/A
<b>Fitness</b> Attempt CPFT to set a baseline	
<b>Character</b> Cadet Wingman Course	
<b>Special Requirement</b> ▶ Do this task first: Cadet Welcome Course	
<b>Honor Credit</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Goal Date</b>	
<b>Promotion Effective Date</b>	

- **SECOND QUARTER (January – March).** The Squadron will continue classes in aerospace education, character development, leadership, physical fitness, and drill program. It will field a team to participate in the annual Bataan March at White Sands Missile Range. Its aerospace education instruction will emphasize rocketry and astronomy. Its Cadets will continue to participate in powered and glider rides. It will also provide them with training in emergency services and give cadets the opportunity to participate in search and rescue exercises. It will offer a day camp during spring break for potential Cadets offering drill, physical training, and aerospace activities.

- **THIRD QUARTER (April - June).** The Squadron will continue with classes in aerospace education, character development, leadership, physical fitness, and drill. It will add ground flight simulator training for manned flight. It will introduce additional activities including field trips to aviation-related sites (i.e., the War Eagles Museum in Santa Teresa and the New Mexico Museum of Space History in Alamogordo). It will prepare cadets for summer, powered flight, and glider encampments.



- **FOURTH QUARTER (July - September).** The Squadron will discontinue classes during July to allow cadets to participate in encampments and special programs. In anticipation of the new school year, the Squadron will sponsor a Cadet Great Start Program in September. It will offer an open house showcasing the exciting opportunities available through the CAP Cadet Program. It will set learning objectives designed specifically for new cadets. It will provide a standardized, easy to use curriculum. It will inform parents of CAP policies and build trust between parents and CAP leaders. It will involve cadets in exciting, hands-on training activities, as opposed to passive, boring lectures. It will conclude with orientation flight in a Cessna C-182 for every cadet to motivate and reward them.



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## CADET FLYING.

- CAP is America's premier opportunity for air-minded youth. Thanks to CAP adult volunteers, cadets learn about the fundamentals of aviation through classroom activities, self-study texts, orientation flights, and formal flight training. The Cadet Flying Home Page provides information about:



- Orientation flights
- Free cadet memberships in aviation organizations
- Elective activities for individual cadets and squadrons
- Flight academies
- FAA Private Pilot Written Test Preparation
- Flight scholarships

Please use the Cadet Online Application (Contact the Squadron Commander or the Deputy Commander for Cadets before Applying):

<https://www.caphq.gov/CAP.MembershipSystem.Web/CadetOnlineApp.aspx>

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