



NEWS

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2,225 cadets enrolled this year through Air Force-funded encampment assistance program

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. – Civil Air Patrol’s Cadet Encampment Assistance Program, which was launched last year with \$490,000 in U.S. Air Force grant money and enabled more than 1,400 cadets to attend wing encampments throughout the nation, has proven even more successful this year.

The number of CEAP cadets attending encampments in fiscal year 2016 has risen by 60 percent, to 2,225, according to CAP Cadet Programs.

All cadets requesting grant funding this year to attend their first encampments were approved, as were requests from some repeat participants serving as staff, said Joanna Lee, manager for CAP Cadet Programs’ Education Group.

“We have found that it’s been really helpful,” Lee said. “Applications were way up.”

The Air Force’s budget over the next five years includes \$500,000 for the cadet grant program. In addition, this year CAP-USAF provided \$100,000 for the program.

The program was revised slightly for 2016 to ensure that all funds went directly to cadet applicants, Lee said, adding, “Now that we know it’s provided for the next couple of years, we’ll keep planning to make it better.”

In years past, CAP summer encampment attendance has totaled in the 5,000-6,000 range. Last year that figure rose to 7,200.

Civil Air Patrol, the longtime all-volunteer U.S. Air Force auxiliary, is the newest member of the Air Force’s Total Force, which consists of regular Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, along with Air Force retired military and civilian employees. CAP, in its Total Force role, operates a fleet of 550 aircraft and performs about 90 percent 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 78 lives annually. Civil Air Patrol’s 56,000 members nationwide also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. Its members additionally play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to 24,000 young people currently participating in the CAP cadet program. Performing missions for America for the past 75 years, CAP received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2014 in honor of the heroic efforts of its World War II veterans. CAP also participates in Wreaths Across America, an initiative to remember, honor and teach about the sacrifices of U.S. military veterans. Visit www.capvolunteernow.com for more information.

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