



# GATOR GAZETTE

FLORIDA WING NEWSLETTER

## ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS



### Up, Up, and Away at Lakeland Linder Airport

**May 6 – 8 in Lakeland FL**

**Registration closes April 29<sup>th</sup>**

Activity Director: Capt. James Chamberland

Up, Up and Away Florida is a 3-day family-oriented Hot Air Balloon Festival in Lakeland, Florida. The event is hosted at the Lakeland Linder International Airport on the SUN N' FUN Expo Campus.

The annual event is an educational and community exposition for residents and visitors that includes hot air balloon launches, twilight glows and tethered rides, live music, vendors, food, and a myriad of activities for attendees of all ages. CAP senior member and cadet volunteers are needed to staff balloon launches, tethered flights and other activities open to the public.

**Activity Fee:** None.

**Billeting:** Bivouac is tent camping only.

**Meals:** Participants must provide their own meals.

**To apply for staff positions** (senior member or cadet) email Capt James Chamberland at [james.chamberland@flwgcap.us](mailto:james.chamberland@flwgcap.us)

**More information and registration:** <https://flwg.cap.gov/news/events/up-up--away>



### Florida Leadership Academy (FLA) at Elks Youth Camp

**May 13 – 15 at Umatilla, FL**

**Registration closes**

Activity Director: Capt. Amon Russell

Learn what it takes to be a successful staff member at the next FLWG Encampment!

Cadets who attend FLA will find the instruction to greatly help them when performing leadership roles at their home squadrons and at other CAP activities. Serving on Encampment staff provides a perfect opportunity for cadets to practice the lessons learned from the FLA. Cadets who intend on applying for Encampment staff are highly encouraged to attend the FLA in order to begin developing their leadership abilities.

If you plan on applying to staff an encampment, then you need to make every effort to attend this activity! Our intention is to help train up the best group of leaders in the nation! You will learn the lessons needed to serve at any CAP event and this will weigh heavily when staff are being chosen for the next encampment.

**Deadlines:**

**22 April 2022** Instructor and staff applications due (senior and cadet)

**04 May 2022** Student applications due

**07 May 2022** Refund request deadline for guaranteed refund

**Activity fee:** \$80

**Staff and Instructor Applications:** See website for information

**More information and registration:** <https://flwg.cap.gov/programs/cadet-programs/florida-leadership-academy-spring-2022>



**May 21-22**  
**Space Coast**  
**Regional Airport**

**Space Coast International Airshow**

**Volunteer Dates: May 20-22, 2022**

**Airshow Dates: May 21-22, 2022**

Hosting unit: Ti-Co Composite Squadron

Activity Director: Capt. Michael Piwowarski

CAP will be responsible for our own area of operations to include operational C-47, C-46, UH-1, and AH-1 aircraft. Inside that area we will have vending, recruiting, transportation, aircraft passenger marshalling, flight line frontage, and maintaining our own internal perimeter inside the rest of the airshow. Many positions will be needed. You may be assigned to: Flight line operations, Recruiting, Logistical Support, Administrative Support, Communications, Public Affairs, and Aviation Ambassadors. We cannot guarantee you will receive your first choice based on the needs of the operation.

**Activity Fee:** \$5 Cash only paid at event.

**Registration:** There will be a registration link on the FLWG website in the next few days. All required paperwork will be hand carried to event and turned in at check-in.

**Volunteer Requirements:**

Cadets Volunteers: 14 yoa or older, C/Amn or above, Aircraft Ground Handling, CPP for cadets 18-20.

Senior Volunteers: Level 1 complete, CPP current, Aircraft Ground Handling Training.

**Food:** Meals are provided by Space Coast Airshow. One meal per day may be MRE. Please advise of dietary restrictions.

**Billeting:** Tent camping only.

**Contacts:**

Activity Director: Capt Michael Piwowarski at [Michael.piwowarski@flwgcap.us](mailto:Michael.piwowarski@flwgcap.us)

Secondary PoC: NCOIC, CMSgt Jose Tamayo, at [jose.tamyo@flwgcap.us](mailto:jose.tamyo@flwgcap.us)



**Level IV – On-site Modulated Modules**

Florida Wing is hosting an opportunity to complete the Level IV Moderated Modules onsite.

Prerequisites: Captain or higher, Completed Level III

**Registration deadline:** 5 May 2022 (limit of 25 students)

**Location:** MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, FL

**Dates:** May 14 & 15, 2022

Times: 08:30 – 17:00 each day

Dining and Lodging is at your expense. A list of suggested lodging is forthcoming. There are numerous eateries in the area, as well as on base, including the DFAC.

You must register for each module that you want to take by following this

link. <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BEBSR5BaTEajaTw6Ub2tBkQIssJiq15PvPe3BbHAVphUQUxP0U5ZNzIIRkkyNVFYMFRXVFCNUpSOC4u>

Prior to attending, complete all the required reading(s) and any assignments as indicated in the various Student Guides, available in a zip file at: <https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/members/ed-training/level-iv-senior-leadership>

Some of the modules may require assignments to be turned in to the instructor of the module, to be graded afterwards.

This is not a course. Therefore, a certificate will not be issued, and you do not need to be present for all the modules. Think of it as buffet or smorgasbord of modules.

A student guide will be sent separately.

Lt Col Judith Hewett / FL Wing Director of Education & Training / [Judith.hewett@flwg.cap.gov](mailto:Judith.hewett@flwg.cap.gov)

Lt Col Chuck Lynch / Level IV Onsite Spring 2022 Curriculum Director / [Charles.lynch@flwg.cap.gov](mailto:Charles.lynch@flwg.cap.gov)



### **Summer Encampment at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center**

**July 7-16 2022, Staff**

**July 9 -16 2022, Students**

Commander: Captain Thomas McMahon

Deputy Commander of Support: Captain Jack Duich

Commandant of Cadets: Captain Amon Russell

Cadet Commander: Cadet Major Anya Kratz

**Applications are open for cadet and senior staff positions and student registration is also open for the Florida Wing 2022 Summer Encampment.**

#### **DEADLINES**

- 15 MAR 2021 Senior Cadet Staff applications (Squadron Commanders and Above)
- 08 APR 2021 - All Cadet and senior member staff applications due
- 31 MAY 2021 - First Time Cadet Applications and encampment fee payment
- 31 MAY 2021 - Cadet & Senior staff activity fee payment due
- 30 AUG 2022 - Refund requests due

**For more information, forms, and registration:**

<https://flwg.cap.gov/programs/cadet-programs/flwg-summer-encampment>

**For more information and application procedures for the Cadet Encampment Assistance Program (CEAP), please visit:**

<https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/programs/cadets/newcadet/ceap>

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# SAVE THE DATES

May 6-8: Up, Up, and Away – Balloon Festival at Lakeland Linder Airport/Sun n Fun -Registration Open

May 13-14: Florida Leadership Academy (FLA), Elks Youth Camp, Umatilla – Registration Open

May 14-15: Level IV Modulated Modules

May 21-22: Space Coast Airshow, Titusville – Registration Open

May 21-22: Check Pilot School, Lakeland Linder Airport

June 15-19: Florida Wing Conference with pre-conference courses, Tampa

July 7 – 16: Summer Encampment, Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Starke – Registration Open

July 7 – 16: Florida Emergency Services Academy, Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Starke

July 24-30: Cyber Camp, Port St Lucie

August 25-27: CAP National Conference, Lexington, KY

August 26-28: Cadet Honor Academy, Elks Youth Camp, Umatilla

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## Florida Wing Member Spotlight



### **Spatz Award:**

Congratulations to Florida Wing's newest recipient of the General Carl Andrew Spatz Award, Cadet Colonel Michael Mollison (Award #2385) of the Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron.



### **50- Year Member:**

Lt. Col. Thomas Trammel, Commander of the Venice Cadet Squadron. He has served for many years at FLWG Encampments as the Commandant or the Advanced Training Squadron Senior Member Commander. He is also known for distributing roses during encampment banquets.



### **USAF Academy Appointment:**

Congratulations to Cadet Major Ethan Leeman of the Tallahassee Composite Squadron on his appointment to the United States Air Force Academy from Congressman Al Lawson's office.

# AEROSPACE

## AEROSPACE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Congratulations to the following Florida requirements for the Aerospace

### 2020 Awards:

SRQ Composite Squadron  
Treasure Coast Composite Squadron  
Pinellas Senior Squadron  
Hillsborough One Senior Squadron  
Venice Cadet Squadron  
Pensacola Cadet Squadron  
Zephyr Airport Cadet Squadron  
Opa-Locka Cadet Squadron



2021.

Wing squadrons for meeting the Excellence Award (AEX) in 2020 and

### 2021 Awards:

North Perry Composite Squadron  
Naples Senior Squadron  
Stuart Composite Squadron  
Charlotte County Composite Squadron  
Treasure Coast Composite Squadron  
North Palm Beach County Cadet Squadron  
St Augustine Composite Squadron  
Pinellas Senior Squadron  
Polk County Composite Squadron  
Hillsborough One Senior Squadron  
Venice Cadet Squadron



## National High-Altitude Balloon Challenge

There are only 60 teams registered at this time for the 2022 National High-Altitude Balloon Challenge.

Registration closes at 11:59 p.m. on April 30<sup>th</sup> (squadron's local time zone) and we'd love to see a lot more teams registered. There is no registration fee. One team per composite or cadet squadron.

The first place team receives \$5000 to their squadron and the Kittenger Cup. There are many other prizes for which teams compete.

For this challenge, cadets work in teams to design and build a scientific payload which is launched into near space by NHQ AE coordinated teams. The payload is returned to the squadron to complete the experiment by analyzing the data and submitting their work to NHQ by the deadline. This is the ultimate real-world team project which fulfills squadron requirements for AEX, QCUA, and participating members would be eligible for the STEM badge. There are many online resources for experiment ideas; just google "High-Altitude Balloon Experiments" to find one for your squadron's team.

A few basics about the HAB Challenge:

1. Only one team per squadron may register.

2. Each team should have at least two cadets for a team to be registered.
3. Each squadron team can have as many cadets as are interested in actually working on the project. (No limit, but suggest that only those who want to work on this actually join the team.)
4. Two composite or cadet squadrons can register as one team, but only one squadron should actually register (and add the second squadron at the bottom of the registration).
5. If a senior squadron wants to work with a composite or cadet squadron, the composite or cadet squadron POC should register and add the senior squadron's info at the bottom of the registration.

All 2022 Challenge directions are found on the liftoff event recording, [HERE](#). (Squadrons can view this to determine if they can and will participate.)

Also - Check out this short video of the August 2021 High-Altitude Balloon launch and when the balloon bursts at altitudes of 87,621 ft. and 103,057 ft. before landing the payloads back on Earth.

The experiments were shipped back to the squadrons where they completed experiment analyses and submitted the required documents to be eligible for the Kittinger Cup.

[2021 Video](#)

For more information and registration visit: [2022 High-Altitude Balloon Challenge](#)

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## Florida Wing Government Relations

### National Legislative Day

by Lt. Col. Joyce Nader

FLWG Government Relations Officer



1 R-L: Mr. Paul Gloyd, CAP NHQ Deputy COO; Col. Jeff Garret, GAWG/CC; Col. Luis Negron, FLWG/CC; C/Capt. Jalen Vincent, National Capital Wing

Civil Air Patrol's annual National Legislative Day campaign has just ended, and Florida Wing knocked it out of the ball park!

We scored 100 percent of our Congressional Delegation, 29 out of 29, which is a real feat in this COVID climate--including one newly elected Congressional Representative, whose office was not even set up until the end of February.

Unlike 2021 (all virtual), this was a hybrid campaign, with a limited number of face-to-face in person meetings in DC on February 17th, and the rest all virtual, on different platforms. "Although the pandemic prevented us from bringing a Florida delegation to Washington D.C., the Wing Legislative Team, led by Lt Col Joyce Nader,

was able to schedule meetings with all the Florida elected Senators and Representatives, which Headquarters referenced as a gargantuan task.” said Col. Negron.

Col. Luis Negron, in his inaugural trip as our Wing Commander, conducted 5 in person meetings in Washington D.C.! Only one other Wing Commander had that number of in person meetings. Col. Negron said, “I had the privilege to meet some in-person in our Nation's Capital and the respect and support they have for CAP in Florida is outstanding and humbling.”

Other members of our stellar National Legislative Day team representing FLWG were Lt. Col. Phil Zedonek, Maj. Daia Jung, Maj. Logan Gallo, and Lt. Col. Adrian Cuarta who covered 15 of the 29 meetings. It was a great team effort and a rousing success, which we hope to repeat next year!

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## CADET PROGRAMS

### **90 Scholarships Totaling Nearly \$156K Announced**

Ninety Civil Air Patrol cadets from 33 wings are receiving academic and flight scholarships worth a combined total of \$155,700 in 2022. In all, 63 academic scholarships account for \$126,500 of the total amount, with 27 flight scholarships totaling the remaining \$29,200.

Congratulations to the following Florida Wing cadets:

Cadet 1st Lt. Jeremy Abegg-Guzman (Pines-Miramar Composite)

Awarded the CAP Cadet Academic Scholarship of \$2,000

Cadet Lt. Col. Ashton Campbell (463rd Composite Squadron in Kissimmee)

Awarded the Lt Col Richard Brinkman, Jr Flight Scholarship of \$1,000

Cadet Capt. Jose Andres Hernandez (Pines-Miramar Composite Squadron)

Awarded the Lt Col Richard Brinkman, Jr Flight Scholarship of \$1,000

Cadet Capt. Gabriel Katz (Naples Cadet Squadron)

Awarded the CAP Cadet Academic Scholarship of \$2,000

Cadet Maj. Justin McDonald (Venice Cadet Squadron)

Awarded the USAA Academic Scholarship of \$1,000

### **Cadet Honor Society Inductee and Member of Distinction**

Congratulations to C/CMSgt James E. Dewey (#638) from Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron for being added as a member of the Cadet Honor Society and to C/SSgt Sarah A. Dewey (#639) from Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron for achieving Cadet Honor Society Member of Distinction.

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### **NEW! Cadet Honor Academy**

Cadet Programs is pleased to announce a NEW event to be held August 26-28, 2022, at Elks Youth Camp, called the Cadet Honor Academy!

The Cadet Honor Academy is an introduction to color guard and honor guard entities for squadrons wanting to start teams. You will learn basic information about color guard, honor guard, drill competency, academic foundations, and getting started at the squadron level. You must be at least a Cadet Airman or higher (primary focus being on members in CAP for less than 2 years) and encampment is NOT a pre-requisite.

The Activity Director is Lt Col Danielle DeAngelo. Registration will open in early June 2022. Staff Applications will open in May 2022 (Cadet NCOs and higher with either color guard or honor guard experience is preferred).

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### **Cadet Honor Society**

The Cadet Honor Society is looking for cadets who consistently score 90% or better on Civil Air Patrol Leadership and Aerospace tests! Does this sound like you? If so, we want you to apply! Think you might have qualified from past testing? We want you to apply too! All scores will be considered for retroactive induction! The higher you excel in testing the better the benefits. And of course, bragging rights!

**Application information can be found on the Florida Wing website at the following link:**

<https://flwg.cap.gov/programs/cadet-programs/cadet-honor-society>

Don't delay your application any further and be part of an elite group of Florida Wing cadets!

**Questions?** Do not hesitate to contact the CHS Administrator, Lt Col Danielle DeAngelo, at [CHSadmin@flwg.us](mailto:CHSadmin@flwg.us)

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### **FLWG Executive Leadership Program**

The FLWG Executive Leadership Program (ELP) is a new program originally proposed by the FLWG CAC designed to give Cadet Officers who are cadet captains or above and have extensive CAP experience the opportunity to serve in higher-level staff positions to develop their leadership skills. Cadets will be paired with a mentor from their selected directorate and will serve in a support role to learn about the directorate by completing staff assignments.

Directorates currently participating in the Executive Leadership Program include:

Safety

Logistics (FLWG/A4)

Cadet Programs (FLWG/A5CP)

Aerospace Education (FLWG/A5AE)

Operations / Emergency Services (FLWG/A3)

Public Affairs (FLWG/A6PA)

**For more information and application link:** <https://flwg.cap.gov/programs/cadet-programs/cadet-executive-leadership-program>

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# Florida Wing Safety

## The Need for Continuous Safety Education

By 1Lt. Mike Shekari

FLWG Safety Officer

We have all thought about it at one point; why does the Civil Air Patrol require us to undergo monthly safety education? Even as the FLWG Director of Safety and a career aerospace safety professional, I admit it is a fair question. So here is an honest answer with three reasons why CAP members need a continuous safety education:

1. **The Civil Air Patrol is always recruiting new members, and people tend to forget things over time.** You may have heard safety officers brief the same topics many times and understand the issues well, but that does not mean the relatively new member at an activity is familiar with the hazards being discussed or that the highly experienced member who has been inactive during the past few years (or even months) remembers all the important details.
2. **The only constant is change.** The missions, technology, practices, and membership of the 21<sup>st</sup> century Civil Air Patrol can at times be very different compared to our collective experience as an organization. This reality means hazards may emerge or subside in relevance and that risk controls may develop or be determined ineffective or obsolete. Safety officers do their best to stay on top of the latest guidance to help keep you adequately informed on operational hazards and controls to keep risks within CAP as low as reasonably practical.
3. **Mishap data shows that we do not learn our lessons the first time.** If safety education were effective and permanent after the first time it is presented, we would not continue to see mishaps with the same root causes repeatedly. Mishaps have real-world consequences for the wellbeing of our volunteers, property in the care of CAP and others, and our operational effectiveness as a United States Air Force total force partner. We simply cannot afford not to continuously educate our members on the hazards that lead to these mishaps because they may increase in frequency and severity if we don't talk about them constantly.

Now you might be wondering, what should I do if I cannot make my squadron safety briefings all the time, or just would like to get a perspective on safety from a new source? Well, in addition to the self-study courses and quizzes available on AXIS LMS, I would like to invite all members to join the FLWG staff during our monthly safety education sessions. They are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 2000hrs eastern time via Microsoft Teams. And if you just so happen to miss a session you were interested in, fear not! Many of the sessions are recorded for later viewing.

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_YmU2YTczYmUtZTYzOS00ZTE2LWFIYzgtZmZiZmI4NmZhNjU3%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2247524004-5a90-464c-a369-3c3a51bdad06%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%220482e53f-3f12-4029-b8c1-2ac8742ede5b%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YmU2YTczYmUtZTYzOS00ZTE2LWFIYzgtZmZiZmI4NmZhNjU3%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2247524004-5a90-464c-a369-3c3a51bdad06%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%220482e53f-3f12-4029-b8c1-2ac8742ede5b%22%7d)

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## **News Feature of the Month**

Congratulations to the Hernando County Composite Squadron for a great article which resulted in an invitation for an interview with Wreaths Across America Radio.

### **Cadets Serve and Educate at Weeki Wachee Swamp Fest**

At the three-day event, cadets operated an outreach booth from which they provided an introduction to the aerospace education and emergency services missions of the Civil Air Patrol.

Read the full article here:

[Hernando County Cadets Serve at Swamp Fest](#)

Listen to the WAA Radio interview with SM Richard Johnson here:

[WAA Radio- Meet the Civil Air Patrol](#)

If your squadron is featured in a local publication, please share the article link via email to FLWG Public Affairs at [sybrian.castleman@flwg.cap.gov](mailto:sybrian.castleman@flwg.cap.gov)

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## **Group 4 ELT Mission**

### **Civil Air Patrol Seminole Composite Squadron Assists in Search and Rescue Find**

By Maj. Sybrian Castleman, Florida Wing Public Affairs

with Cadet 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Addison English (contributor), Seminole Composite Squadron Public Affairs

Lakeland, FL - Civil Air Patrol's Florida Wing received tasking from the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) to locate the source of an Emergency Locator Transmission (ELT) reported to be heard through the area from Deland to Daytona on the night of March 25<sup>th</sup>. Due to the large search area, Florida Wing (FLWG) initiated both air and ground team searches to locate the ELT as quickly as possible.

Six squadron members from the Seminole Composite Squadron responded to form a ground team while two members from other units responded to assist in the search from the air. After a quick check of the Deland airport showed the



beacon to not be there, both teams were redirected to the Flagler Executive Airport from where they determined the signal to be broadcasting. Within ten minutes of arriving on site, the teams were able to identify the parked aircraft broadcasting the transmission. Local airport management was contacted who reached out to the aircraft owner to silence the beacon.

“This ELT mission is a sample of one of the many non-distress searches Civil Air Patrol (CAP) volunteers work across the country almost on a daily basis” said Lt. Col John May, the incident commander for the mission and Director of Emergency Services for the Florida Wing.

The CAP ground team from Seminole Composite Squadron included two adult members –Lt. Troy Majeska and Capt. Marcia Moran – and six cadet (youth) members – Cadet 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Addison English, Cadet CMSgt. Gannon English, Cadet Major Cameron Calloway, and Cadet SSgt. Mark Majeska. The aircrew members were mission pilot Maj. Ayrton Ingle, FLWG Group 4 Commander and Senior Member Erin Northcutt from the Merritt Island Senior Squadron as mission observer.



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**Gator Gazette Submissions:** If your Directorate or unit would like to have items considered to be included in the monthly FLWG newsletter, please send your submission to Maj Sybrian Castleman by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month for the next issue. This includes activities, events, training opportunities, items for “News Feature of the Month” – which is sharing items published by external media, or short articles. Past issues of the Gator Gazette can be found on the Florida Wing website.

**Florida Wing Website Calendar Submissions, Event pages and registration:** Please send requests for these items to Capt Christian Dominguez and Maj Sybrian Castleman. We need at least three weeks lead time to build new event pages and registration set up through Eventbrite; For reoccurring activities and events, two weeks lead time. This gives us time to review information, set up and test registration links, set up graphics, and build social media (facebook) campaigns to support registration efforts.

Contacts:

Public Affairs: Maj Sybrian Castleman [sybrian.castleman@flwg.cap.gov](mailto:sybrian.castleman@flwg.cap.gov)

Information Technology: Capt Christian Dominguez [christian.dominguez@flwg.cap.gov](mailto:christian.dominguez@flwg.cap.gov)

Web Administrator: Lt Col Laz Garcia [lazaro.garcia@flwg.cap.gov](mailto:lazaro.garcia@flwg.cap.gov)

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