



CIVIL AIR PATROL NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
LEAD TEAM: Leadership, Education and Development



Top Ten Ways Cadets Can Get More From CAP

LESSON PLAN

PREFACE

Format: Informal lecture and guided discussion
Audience: Cadets and seniors; any level of experience
Duration: Customizable: 20 minutes or 45 minutes
Materials: PowerPoint slides, laptop and projector (or just a chalkboard)
Handouts: "Cadet Top Ten" wallet cards

OBJECTIVES

Cognitive Objective (Comprehension): The objective of this lesson is for each student to describe opportunities available to cadets.

Samples of Behavior

1. Describes activities available to cadets, including new initiatives
2. Describes benefits of participating in CAP's Cadet Program
3. Describes how leaders can help cadets get the most from the Cadet Program

Affective Objective (Valuing): The objective of this lesson is for each student to propose elements for a personal "top ten" list of ways to get more from CAP.

Samples of Behavior

1. Shares personal insights on how cadets can get more from their CAP membership.
2. Values the principle that cadets can succeed by following a personal top ten.

ATTENTION

Personal anecdote selected by presenter.

MOTIVATION

If you're a new cadet, today's presentation and discussion will be a great way to discover what you personally can do to learn and have fun through the CAP Cadet Program. Even seasoned cadets and seniors should enjoy this discussion as I will share news about the new initiatives we are working on at HQ CAP, and offer suggestion about how you can better help cadet's get more from CAP.

OVERVIEW

Today I'll share with you my Top Ten ways cadets can get more from CAP. The focus is on cadets themselves, what they can personally do to on their own, and the list is mine. Maybe yours would be different. That's fine. If we share ideas on ways cadets can get more from CAP, the session will be even more worthwhile.

Rules of Engagement

1. I'll share with you the items on my top ten, one at a time. They are in no particular order.
2. As I do that, I will be asking you a question about each item [condensed version: every other item] on the list. You'll have an opportunity to contribute your insights on how cadets can get more from CAP. (Be respectful, etc.)

LESSON BODY

The lesson's talking points and discussion questions are attached. The discussion questions are *italicized*. To customize the presentation to fit the time available, refrain from asking every discussion question. The even-numbered questions are the most provocative and relevant to the objectives.

SUMMARY

I have identified the top ten things cadets can do to get more out of CAP. The list was mine, and as we heard in the discussion, many of you have some great ideas of your own. Some of the high points of our discussion included:

- a. Participate actively – You get out of CAP what you put into it.
- b. Try something new – There is so much available to cadets.
- c. Listen to the leaders who guide you. – By definition, a cadet is a leader in training. Your leaders are volunteering their time and expertise to help you.

[Distribute the "Top Ten" wallet cards.]

REMOTIVATION & CLOSING

The important thing about our exercise today is not determining the absolutely definitive, perfect list of what cadets should do to get the most from CAP. Everyone's list of ideas is a little different. Therefore, my message to you today is this: Make your own list of ways to get the most from your CAP membership. Follow that list. Participate actively, try something new, and listen to your leaders. I hope that the next time I see you, you're telling me about something incredible you're doing in the Cadet Program.

Top Ten Ways Cadets Can Get More From CAP

TALKING POINTS & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Attend Encampment

- ▶ 50 per year; 5,000 cadets annually; go to any of them
- ▶ Cadets who go to encampment stay in CAP
- ▶ *Is this a boot camp?* No. Into to AF leadership & AE
- ▶ Gateway for: NCSA, Mitchell, scholarships, E-3

2. Recruit a Friend

- ▶ 80% of cadets join CAP because of a friend, family member, or classmate invites them to join
- ▶ Recruiting & sponsorship is a leadership opportunity
- ▶ *How can you recruit?* Tell your friends, guidance counselors, teachers, neighbors what you're doing in CAP.
- ▶ Order materials through E-Services; new brochures and videos available at cap.gov
- ▶ Recruiting ribbon: 2 cadets

3. Apply for a Scholarship

- ▶ \$300,000 per year is available to cadets and seniors who work with cadets
- ▶ College money: Auburn, Texas A&M (new), Spartan, Dowling, general academic scholarships
- ▶ Flying money: Daedalians, Spaatz for cadets 15½
- ▶ *Who wants to go to the USAF Academy?* Few applicants for USAFA Prep, fabulous opportunity

4. Attend a National Activity

- ▶ Experiences that your wing can not do on its own
- ▶ *Who is going or who has been to a NCSA?*
- ▶ AF: AETCFC, PJOC, AFSPCFC, AFWAFC, & NFA's
- ▶ (New) Aero Career Explorations: E-Tech, ATA, AEA
- ▶ Leadership Dev: COS, NBB, NHGA, Hawk, IACE
- ▶ Announced in the fall, apply in December

5. Involve Your Parents

- ▶ *Who can name the CAP activities cadets can go on without parental permission?* None.
- ▶ If they know CAP, they will value CAP and support your participation (money, transportation, permission)
- ▶ Potential senior members or cadet sponsor members
- ▶ Parents and their contacts open doors in the community (parents' committee)
- ▶ (New) Parent Guide in development

6. Participate in Local Activities

- ▶ Weekly meetings – the nucleus of all CAP activities is the weekly squadron meeting; attend regularly
- ▶ Weekends: model rocketry, orientation flying, drill teams and color guards, ground teams, bivouacs
- ▶ *What if you are bored with the program?* - Offer suggestions to local leaders, Cadet Advisory Council (New: 52-19).
- ▶ (New) Flexibility via quarterly schedule (52-16)

7. Serve the Community

- ▶ Billy Mitchell and the Cub Scouts – Get young kids excited about aerospace, physical fitness, leadership.
- ▶ Promote the drug free message – CAP cadets have the right values. Be role models to peers and younger kids.
- ▶ *What are some other things cadets can do to serve the community?* Service projects, local events, etc.

8. Make Friends

- ▶ Best part about being a former cadet and 20-year member is seeing my friends at CAP
- ▶ Fewer cliques in CAP: clothes, money, looks, music taste, etc. matters less in CAP
- ▶ USAFA Dir/Character Development: "Best way to maintain integrity is to choose good friends."
- ▶ *How can you make friends in CAP?* Activities. Email.

9. Earn Promotions

- ▶ Do the work. It is up to you to study and perform to earn promotions. If you need help studying, ask.
- ▶ Earn the promotion, keep living up to what is on your collar. Be good at that before moving on.
- ▶ *How do you keep your perspective so that promotions don't go to your head?* Humility. Sense of humor. Listen to leaders.
- ▶ Younger cadets: 3 per year; older cadets 4 per year
- ▶ Milestones: 15%, 5%, 2%, ½ % (New: Wright Bros)
- ▶ Gateway to more learning and increased opportunity.

10. Listen to Leaders

- ▶ "Feedback is the breakfast of champions."
- ▶ Ask your seniors and cadet officers to help you be a good leader. Listen to what they have to say.
- ▶ *How is listening different from hearing?* Attentive to the words, the implied meanings, the theme, the emphasis, the gestures, not waiting for your turn to talk.