



Wylie Civil Air Patrol News Release

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For Immediate Release

Teens find a place to fly, care and keep area communities safe Wylie's Civil Air Patrol initiates new recruitment efforts

WYLIE, TEXAS—Sept. 10, 2007—The Wylie Civil Air Patrol is hosting a “Why Be In the Civil Air Patrol?” orientation, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sept. 18, at the St. Paul Town Hall, just two miles northeast of downtown Wylie. The session, which details the Patrol’s mission and purpose, is led by cadets (students) showcasing the value of aviation education, search and rescue techniques, leadership skills and more. All students, ages 12 and older, may attend. The event is free and parents are welcome.

“The Civil Air Patrol is a non-military, volunteer auxiliary of the United States Air Force, with more than 56,000 members and 27,000 cadets or students,” said Allen Miner, Wylie’s squadron commander. “Wylie’s squadron graduated several cadets this last year, so we’re focused on recruiting more students. We’re looking for boys and girls who have a love for aerospace and desire to be leaders. They will learn how to support search-and-rescue efforts, and participate in disaster-relief efforts and flying exercises. They’ll become strong, disciplined leaders.”

Just ask Amber, a 16-year-old cadet involved with the Wylie CAP since 2006. Her dream is to become a pilot.

“The Wylie CAP has been totally amazing in helping me achieve my dream of becoming a pilot,” she said. “In July, our squadron flew in a KC135 (cargo plane) and watched four F-16s re-fuel, mid-air. It was totally amazing. I even got goose bumps watching them do it.” Earlier in the month, Amber even got to fly a plane.

“I flew a plane for the first time on July 21,” said Amber. “It was a Cessna 182. Unbelievable! The Wylie CAP has opened so many doors to my goals. Without it, I probably would have never had all the opportunities I’ve had.”

Cadets run the meetings, with oversight by Allen Miner, squadron commander, and Steve Gilbert, deputy commander. Each meeting includes a student-led agenda of activities, presentations and exercises.

"The cadets (students) progress through a multi-step program, in which they are recognized for excellence in leadership skills, physical fitness, and academics," said Minor. "They also learn about military life, and experience drill and inspection completion. And parents, CAP offers \$300,000 in scholarships every year."

One cadet, who just joined the Wylie CAP in July, said he joined because he wanted to be a part of its variety of activities, all of which benefit the community.

"My mother's best friend was telling her about the Civil Air Patrol, and how her sons were in it," said Joel, a 7th-grade Wylie student. "I later questioned the friend about it, and she told me more. It also helped that my grandfather was in the Air Force, and that I always longed to fly a plane. I attended one of the CAP meetings and just knew I wanted to be part of it." He's been to 4 meetings since.

"Lately, I've been learning how to march and do drills," he said. Recently, I went on a Search and Rescue simulation, which was fun, but it also had a serious atmosphere at the same time."

The Wylie CAP meets weekly on Tuesday nights, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., at the St. Paul Town Hall, just north of downtown Wylie. Driving directions are available at <http://wyliecap.org/contactus.aspx>. Students may join the squadron by filling out an application. Annual dues are \$30. More information is available at the Wylie CAP Web site, <http://www.wyliecap.org>, or at the national site, <http://www.cap.gov>.

The Wylie CAP is one of 10 squadrons in north Texas. Other squadrons are located in Addison, Dallas, Fort Worth, Irving, Plano, Rockwall, McKinney and others.

For more information, contact Roy G. Miller at (903) 422-5117, or at rmiller@rgmcomms.com, or contact John Myers, Wylie CAP public information officer at johnm7@isp.com or 972-495-0350.

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QUICK FACTS, CIVIL AIR PATROL

THE ORGANIZATION

- Nonprofit, 501(c)(3) corporation
- The auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force
- More than 56,000 members, including 27,000 cadets ages 12- 21
- Eight geographic regions, 52 wings, 1,700 units in all
- National Headquarters at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., with 100 support staff
- World's largest fleet (535) of single-engine, piston aircraft

- Nation's most extensive emergency communications network
- 1,000 emergency services vehicles

AEROSPACE EDUCATION

- 100 aerospace education workshops each year
- Aerospace classroom materials, grades K through college
- Nation's premier annual aerospace education conference
- AE program touches more than 900 teachers per year

CADET PROGRAMS

- Multi-step leadership training
- Cadet glider and powered orientation flights, flight training scholarships
- International Air Cadet Exchange program

OPERATIONS

- Performs 95 percent of nation's inland search and rescue, directed by AFRCC
- 100 lives on average saved per year
- Aerial reconnaissance for homeland security
- Disaster relief and damage assessment
- Transport for time-sensitive medical materials
- Counter-narcotic missions