

# Civil Air Patrol's Air & Space Forces Association CY21 Annual Program Report

Civil Air Patrol continues to recognize the Air & Space Forces Association as a treasured organizational aerospace/STEM education partner via the varied partnership programs with the AFA. Much appreciation is extended to the AFA for the 25-year partnership that has resulted in unit grants and cadet recognition programs.

In December 2017, CAP and the AFA signed a renewed partnership agreement which strengthens support for both organizations' aerospace education initiatives, as well as reciprocal complimentary memberships.

- CAP has a dedicated page to AFA and CAP partnership programs [HERE](#).

## **AFA Grants for CAP Units and ACE program**

Since the 1996 inception of the AFA/CAP partnership, the AFA has contributed \$500,000 in grant funding to enable CAP units (and, until 2018, educator members) the opportunity to complete special aerospace/STEM education projects and programs with young people across the country. During that time, over half a million students have been impacted by the AFA grants for CAP units and educator members, averaging about \$1.04 per student. CAP members have used this grant funding to promote STEM-related subjects and career options to young people, serving to aid in the preparation of the future aerospace/STEM workforce.

**Historically:** The AFA provided \$22,500 annually to the CAP grant program until 2014, when, for 2015 and 2016, the AFA increased the annual contribution to \$27,500 to further grant outreach potential due to CAP's sustained fiscal stewardship. For the years of 2017-2019, the AFA had to reduce the annual funding to \$12,500. For 2020-2021, due to AFA fiscal issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic, CAP appreciatively received \$7,500.

Until 2018, both CAP educator members and CAP units received AFA Grant funds. In 2019, CAP and the AFA agreed to use the decreased grant funding to support only CAP unit aerospace/STEM projects and programs since the AFA already supported educators nationwide with \$500 AFA Educator Grants. This reduced duplicity of AFA funds for educator grants and enabled CAP to better support CAP units.

The funds are used for \$250 CAP unit grants that reach all geographical areas of the country, as well as Puerto Rico. Grant recipients are encouraged to collaborate with other groups to increase program impact.

As approved by the AFA, \$2,500 of the annual grant funding is specifically allotted to support CAP's K-6 *Aerospace Connections in Education (ACE)* program, to include ACE certificates for all participants, as well as ACE national award grants and associated events.

The application and selection process for the *AFA Grant for CAP Units* ensures that quality STEM-related programs and projects are the foundation of each grant. After-action reports from grant recipients reveal a deep appreciation for and varied benefits resulting from the acquisition of AFA funding. When photos are included, the excitement shows in the faces of the youth benefitting from the grants.

Many of the programs and projects can be replicated numerous times after being funded, thus, there are perpetual outyear benefits of the funding.

2021 return on investment information for the AFA grant program for CAP is delineated below, but, as stated, many programs are replicated for several out years and conducted in collaboration with numerous other youth groups, thus immeasurably increasing downstream program impact.

### **CY21 \$7,500 grant funds expenditures and program impact:**

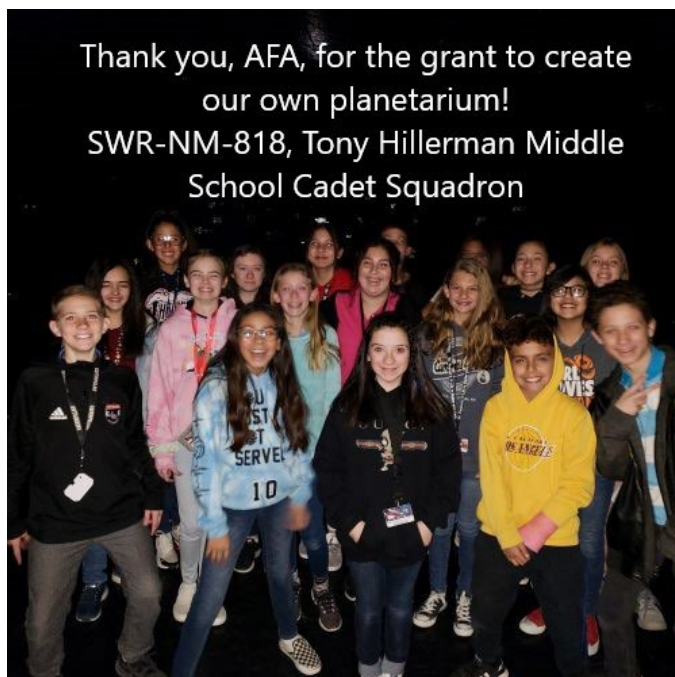
#### **CAP Unit Grants**

- Summer Cycle (June '21)- 20 grants @ \$250 each = \$5,000 --Total youth directly impacted- 1,207

### **STEM Outreach Grants for Aerospace Connections in Education (ACE) Program Awards**

- STEM Outreach Grants= \$2,500 -----Total students directly impacted- 60,490
  - ~ Awards for **2021 National ACE School, Educators, and Students of the Year** = \$1,125
  - ~ National ACE certificates and ACE program lift-off events = \$1,375

**CY21 Total Youth Directly Impacted by AFA Grants for CAP- 61,697**  
**~Per capita AFA contribution/distribution- \$0.12**



## **Other AFA Initiatives to Support CAP**

- *AFA's Annual Recognition at Air, Space, and Cyber Conference:*

### **National CAP Aerospace Education Cadet of the Year Award**

**2021 AFA's National CAP AE Cadet of the Year:**

**C/Maj (now) Rylee Schmuck**

**GLR-IN-220 River City Cadet Squadron**

**Currently attending high school, teaching STEM classes to youth, serving on School System's STEM Board, and working on CAP Cadet Achievement 16 (nearing Spaatz Award level).**

**Shown: teaching a STEM class & meeting Gen Van Ovost at the '22 Women in Aviation Int'l Conference**



- *AFA's Annual Recognition:* **CAP Outstanding Squadron Cadets of the Year** Upon requests from CAP squadron commanders, CAP NHQ mailed out 201 CAP squadron cadet award packages with ribbon and medal. Virtual presentations were the norm in 2021. (New AFA name and logo is on 2022 certificate recreated by CAP, [HERE](#).)





## *AFA's Annual CyberPatriot and StellarXplorers Programs- CAP team participation*

- As with each year since the inception of the AFA's ***CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Education Program***, CAP units were given the opportunity to compete in the CyberPatriot program at no cost to units due to the AFA/CAP partnership. CAP team fees are waived as CAP pays all CAP national team competition expenses.
  - CAP team participated in the *All Service Division* of the 2021 competition with 407 teams. CAP also had 114 Middle School division teams compete. Thus, a total of 521 CAP teams participated in the 2021 competition.

### CA CAP Team Places 3<sup>rd</sup> Nationally in All Service Division of AFA's CyberPatriot (CAP.NEWS)

CAP's CAWG Fullerton Composite Squadron CyberPatriot team earned 3<sup>rd</sup> place nationally in the 2021 CyberPatriot All Service Division.



- The AFA CyberPatriot office has also partnered with CAP to provide all interested squadrons the opportunity to conduct a summer ***Cyber Camp***, at no cost to the squadron, as CAP NHQ pays the fee for a "two-week CAP window" each summer.
  - Info at [AFA's Cyber Programs page for CAP](#).
- CAP also participates in the AFA's annual ***StellarXplorers*** program with 27 CAP teams in 2021.
  - [The ORWG Aurora Composite Squadron wins 2021 National AFA StellarXplorers competition](#) (CAP.NEWS)

The OR Wing's Aurora Composite Squadron:  
National 2021  
StellarXplorers winners.



CAP promoted all AFA-sponsored programs listed above via social media posts, AE website, Constant Contact media e-mails to members, monthly AE Newsletters, Cadet Blog, and CAP.NEWS online news outlet.

## [What does the AFA do for CAP?](#)

# ***Thank you to the AFA!***



**Aerospace/STEM  
Education Partners for  
the Future**



## **CAP's Reciprocal Support of the AFA**

## [What does CAP do for the AFA?](#)

## Free STEM Programs for AFA Chapters

In CY21, CAP provided 64 complimentary AE memberships for AFA Chapter Teachers of the Year and local teachers working with the AFA chapter.

Each complimentary CAP AE membership an AFA chapter gave to a local educator garnered the educator eligibility to receive a wealth of FREE STEM resources to ignite an interest in STEM subjects and careers with the teachers and the students:

- [Over 40 free K-12 aerospace-themed STEM educational products](#)
- [20 free K-12 STEM Kits](#) for educators to use and keep
- Free [K-6<sup>th</sup> grade Aerospace Connections in Education \(ACE\) program](#)- with [free grade level specific curricula and student educational materials](#)
- Free K-12 [Teacher Orientation Program \(TOP\) flights](#) at local airports



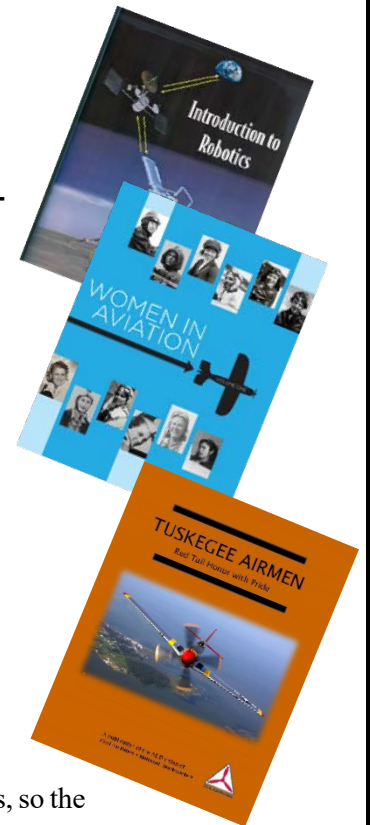
**Cost to AFA Chapters and educators? Nothing!**

Since this program began in 2011, 2,412 (by end of 2021) AFA-supported educators have had the regular \$35 membership fee waived equating to **(\$84,420)** in CAP funds.

\*\*\* In CY21, the 64 educators receiving the complimentary AE membership equated to **(\$2,240)** in CAP funds.

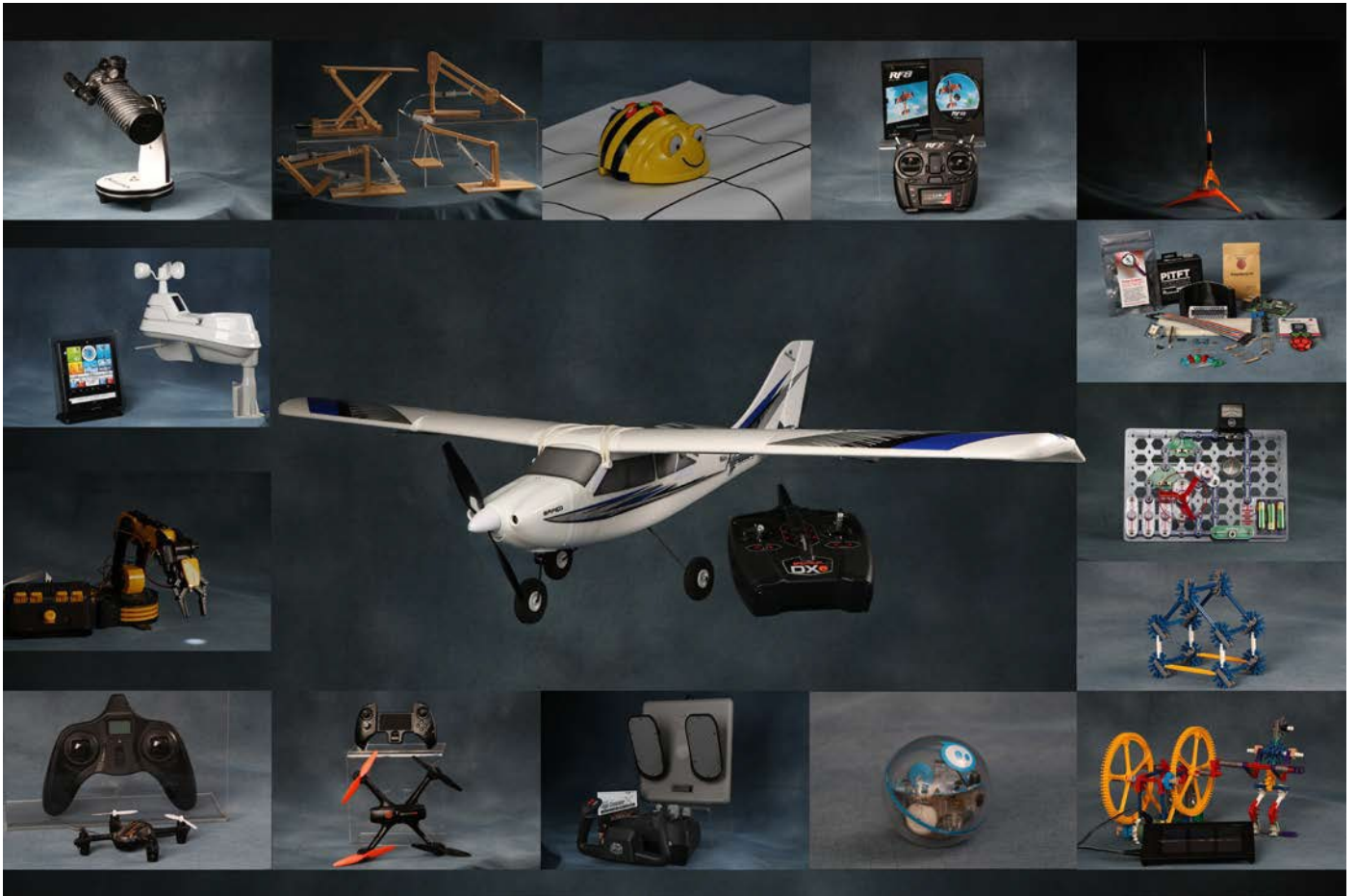
- ***Annual worth to EACH AFA-sponsored CAP educator member? An average of \$300 goods and services!***
- **In 2021 alone, CAP provided about \$19,200 worth of FREE STEM materials to new AFA chapter-sponsored educators.**
- **Combined CY21 benefit to the AFA via the complimentary AE memberships: \$21,440.**
- NOTE: AFA-sponsored educators who have been members for several years and have received free annual renewals are still receiving annual benefits, so the cumulative amount provided by CAP in CY20 is far more.

***~ For CY21, at least 6,400 youth benefitted from the free STEM products and programs CAP provides to AFA-sponsored educators.***





**AFA-chapter teacher member sponsorships include free CAP STEM Kits.**

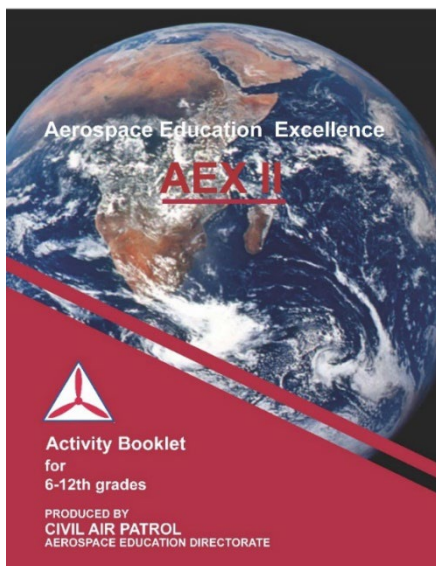


**Teachers also have an opportunity to gain aviation-related STEM knowledge during the free CAP Teacher Orientation Program (TOP) flights in CAP planes with CAP pilots flying over their schools from their local airports.**



## ***CAP's Reciprocal Support of the AFA, continued:***

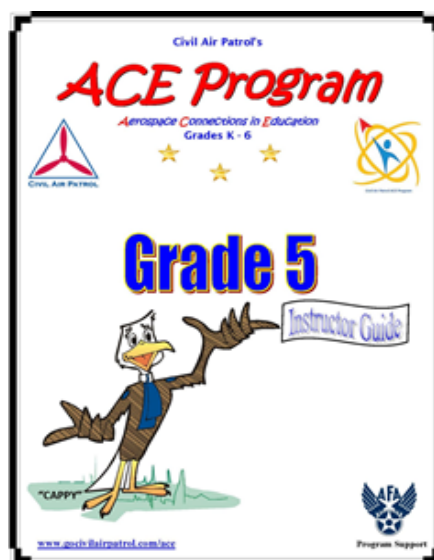
- National AFA's [AE Educator Grant Program](#) was promoted to CAP educator members via e-mails and social media; and annual AFA Educator Grant selection assistance was provided by CAP.
- Included AFA-related articles in Volunteer magazine, CAP.News, and on social media.
- Actively promoted complimentary AFA membership to CAP members.
- The AFA logo and partnership is widely disseminated on CAP brochures, certificates, shirts, and curriculum products, printed as follows:



**New AE 2021 products continued to have the CAP/AFA logos and partner message on the backs of the products. (Beginning to update with new AFA logo and name.)**



**PARTNERS IN AEROSPACE AND STEM EDUCATION**





### **CAP's Appreciation to AFA National Headquarters Staff:**

- Kari Hahn and team member, Joe Peel, have continued to provide prompt and professional service in the AFA/CAP grant and award program partnership.
- The CyberPatriot and StellarXplorers teams have provided excellent support for CAP cadet teams.
- The AFA has included AFA/CAP partnership initiative information on the AFA AE website, in the AFA National Report in the AFA magazine, and in the AFA Newline and AEC Newsletter.

***Respectfully submitted with sincere appreciation,***

Susan Mallett

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