



ASHEVILLE COMPOSITE SQUADRON
CIVIL AIR PATROL
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY
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Frequently Asked Questions – Prospective Cadets

Q: Is this the military?

A: *Not quite. We're associated with the US Air Force, but you are not joining the military. While we adhere to a lot of their customs (salutes, uniforms, ranks, etc.), you are not signing up for any kind of long-term career, and we have absolutely no association with anything combat related. You can think of it as closer to ROTC.*

Q: When can I join?

A: *You can join the day you turn 12. You join as a Cadet as long as you are 12-18 years old, and as a Senior Member after that.*

Q: How do I join?

A: *The first part is easy. Just come to a few of our meetings, and see what we're all about! We will introduce you to some of our staff, talk with your parents about what the program is (and isn't), and let you see for yourself what a typical week looks like for us. If you like what you see, the paperwork is easy.*

Q: When are those meetings you just talked about?

A: *Our squadron meets almost every Thursday evening at the Asheville Airport. We're there from about 18:30 to 21:00 (6:30 to 9:00 pm). Your parents are welcome to drop you off, or they are always welcome to stick around themselves. We'd suggest checking in with us before you come, just to make sure it's not a special week when we won't be there, and so that we can expect you and give you directions.*

Q: How much does this cost?

A: *The cost to join is \$40, and then there are annual dues of \$40 for cadets. Beyond that, there are some occasional uniform items to purchase, but we have a lot of them in storage already, and we can help out with that. Occasionally we have a weekend training event where everyone pitches in a few dollars for lunch.*

Q: Can I fly in one of those planes?

A: *Yep, both of them! Our squadron is fortunate enough to have two airplanes based here, and one of the perks of being a Cadet with us is that we'll take you flying in them. For free! All of our cadets are entitled to five front-seat Orientation Flights, during which we'll show you the skies of Western NC, and even let you fly the plane (with a pilot, of course). And you can have as many rides in the back seat as you want!*