



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

Q: Is this the military?

A: *Not quite. We're associated with the US Air Force and part of what's considered the Total 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.*

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 you 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). 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: *There are annual membership dues of \$67 to our National HQ, and \$60 to our local squadron. 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, which we use for everything from search and rescue to taking our cadets on Orientation Flights. For emergency services, we typically fly crews of three people, each of whom has a specific role.*

Q: Great! I'm a pilot! Where are the keys?

A: *In a lockbox, but before you fly the airplane, there's some onboarding to take care of. A couple of hours of familiarization and a checkride. In the meantime, CAP is a lot more than flying (see below), and all of our members are a lot more than just pilots. Those that have the most rewarding experience in CAP are those that are involved in multiple aspects of the operation, many of which don't have anything to do with flying.*

Q: I'm NOT a pilot. Is there anything for me to do?

A: *Not a problem, we have plenty of those. Even on our aircrews, only one of the three has to be a licensed pilot, and some of our most effective and reliable crew members have never flown a plane themselves. Even if you want nothing to do with the sky, the great majority of our members are not pilots and there is a ton to do in CAP that isn't about aviation. We have folks who work with our cadets, teach Aerospace Education, help manage the daily operations of the squadron, and none of that requires flying.*