**INFORMATION PAPER ON**

**CADET WINGS PROGRAM**

The Cadet Wings Program is a part of the Youth Aviation Initiative (YAI). The goal is to provide cadets pursuing a Private Pilot’s Certificate (PPC) with formal flight training.

1. **Background:** The Wings Program was started after the aviation industry published that the PPC is the

first milestone for people wanting a career in aviation. Badly structured plans and assessment failure were some issues to blame for student pilot dropouts. Civil Air Patrol (CAP) started the program to put cadets on a path to success and to train future aerospace leaders. The program provides participants with financial support, personalized and structured flight training, and periodic assessments to encourage success.

1. **Ideal Applicants and Eligibility:** Any cadet may apply for the Wings Program, however, there are

some prerequisites that make cadets more competitive. Cadets must enroll within 6 months of required the age. Cadets must be 16 to solo a powered aircraft and 17 to take the FAA written. Below are some more details to help prepare:

* 1. Be an Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) “Young Eagle.”
  2. Have your current Aircraft Ground Handling (withing past 2 years)
  3. Have a current Student Plot Certificate
  4. Have a current FAA Medical Certificate
  5. Have a current Solo Endorsement
  6. Complete Ground School for the FAA Knowledge Test
  7. Pass the FAA Knowledge Test
  8. Exhibit continued CAP service as a leader

There is a cadet point scoring system in place for applications and for progress while in the Wings Program. There are three task lists which increase a cadet’s point score: prospective candidate, wait-listed candidate, and not selected.

1. **Process:** Application open from October 1st to December 31st. Cadets are notified of their application

status in on March 1st and must accept by March 15th. Invitations are sent to Cadets to enroll on September 1st. Once enrolled, there are four flight training methods:

1. A CAP aircraft and a CAP flight instructor are used.
2. A commercial flight school provides the flight instructor and aircrafts used.
3. A commercial residential flight school provides the flight instructor, aircraft, lodging, and meals.
4. A CAP in-residence flight academy provides the flight instructor, aircraft, lodging, and meals.
5. **Progress:** Cadets are given a detailed flight training plan with due dates and minimums to help keep

them progressing. The cadet is given a maximum of six months and sixty flight hours to complete the program. The YAI panel will track the cadet’s progress and will disenroll a cadet if they see necessary. This is accomplished through online reports and multiple assessments throughout the program.

The Wings Program allows cadets to successfully earn the Private Pilots Certificate. For more information on the program and its process, please refer to CAPP 60-43 or to this website:

<https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/programs/cadets/cadetinvest/youth-aviation-initiative>