



Civil Air Patrol

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**Winchester Composite Squadron
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News Release

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Winchester Composite Squadron hosts Royal Canadian Air Cadets at Air and Space Museum

Winchester, VA – Members of the Winchester Composite Squadron recently played host to over fifty members from the #80 Spitfire Squadron of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets. The Spitfire Squadron has ties to the Royal Air Force and are named after the aircraft flown during World War II. The RCAC were in town to visit Arlington Cemetery, The White House and the Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum.

When comparing the Civil Air Patrol and the Royal Canadian Air Cadet program Cadet Toynton said, "The Civil Air Patrol is a different sort of program we have in Canada but the principals are the same with kids joining to learn about aerospace."

Major CJ Muncy, Deputy Commander of Cadets for the Winchester Composite Squadron, echoed Toynton's comments " I learned about the similarities and the differences of the CAP and the Royal Canadian Air Cadets. We had a good number of our cadets learning how to run Discovery Stations at the museum for the first time and to see the enthusiasm in their faces when they got to teach the Canadian Cadets was a wonderful sight. We are discussing the possibility of a trip to Niagara Falls or possibly Canada to visit their squadron in the future."

The Discovery Stations educate the public about different aerospace and aviation topics. The cadets take what they learn from the Civil Air Patrol's Aerospace Education program and what they are taught by museum staff and then explain to the public about their artifact, simulator or activity. Some of the stations are Principles of Flight, Space Suit, Wright Brothers and Space Shuttle simulators. There's also a simulated Mission Command for those interested in tracking and guiding the simulated Space Shuttle to a safe landing at Cape Canaveral. In addition to the aerospace education the cadets receive, they are also honing their leadership skills as instructors and subject matter experts in fields which they are passionate about.

Jennifer McIntosh, Discovery Station Program Coordinator for the Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum was impressed with the turnout of cadets. "This is one of the most exciting days we've had in quite some time. The Civil Air Patrol is critical to some of our high-profile family days. For example, with our Air and Scare program over 21,000 people will come and visit the museum to view the exhibits. Thanks to the

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assistance of the Winchester Composite Squadron we are able to serve the needs of our guests with aerospace-related artifacts and fun activities.”

Following the event, Winchester Composite Squadron Cadet Commander, Cadet Captain Israel Groves, reflected, “it’s always great to meet with cadets from another country. I was impressed with the way the Canadian cadets worked together and the way they listened to their cadet commander was really great to see. It was also an inspiration to me to see a squadron that large functioning so well. It gives me a goal to work towards with our squadron.” Cadet Captain Groves is headed to Singapore in May to represent the Winchester Composite Squadron as part of the Civil Air Patrol International Air Cadet Exchange program

“This has been awesome, says Captain Tom Sawyer, Commanding Officer for the #80 Spitfire Squadron. “It’s a learning experience for these cadets to be exposed to another culture, another government. I would like to see the two programs foster much closer relations than we have now. Both programs have a positive outlook and give the youth of today, which will be our leaders for tomorrow, a good foundation to grow, network and to see different ideas and ways of doing things.”

The Civil Air Patrol is the official Auxiliary of the United States Air Force, and conducts over 90 percent of the nation’s inland air and ground search and rescue operations for the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. In addition, they provide aerial imagery, damage assessment, communications relay, and limited cargo haul support to Federal, State, and local officials. They maintain a vibrant cadet program focused on developing the nation’s emerging leaders, and strive to develop a better understanding of aviation and space exploration contributions to society.

The Winchester Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with members from the surrounding counties. Resources include qualified ground and air crews, CAP aircraft, ground vehicles and communication equipment, distributed across the Greater Winchester Area for immediate deployment. CAP volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and counterdrug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The squadron also performs other community service such as providing Color Guard for ceremonies, sports events and parades and helps at community events. The Squadron also educates groups and schools in drug free activities for a better way of life.

For Winchester Composite Squadron inquiries, please contact the Lt Colonel Charles Gittins, Commander at 540-662-9036, e-mail cgittins@aol.com or Major CJ Muncy, Deputy Commander of Cadets at 540-551-9968, or e-mail cjmuncy@earthlink.net

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