



Welcome to Fox Valley Composite Squadron IL 274

Undoubtedly one of the hardest tasks in Civil Air Patrol is becoming a new member. At this point you've been to a couple of meetings and you're probably not too sure just exactly what's going on or what you should be doing. Hopefully, we can clear that up right now. We'll begin by discussing CAP's organizational structure.

CAP is the Official Auxiliary of the US Air Force. It has a National Headquarters, eight regions, which are geographical subdivisions of the USA and fifty-two wings. One for each state as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico: each wing is then divided into groups, squadrons and flights.

Our unit is the Great Lakes Region, Illinois Wing and Group 14. We are the Fox Valley Composite Squadron. The squadron is made up of flights, flights are comprised of elements, and elements usually consist of three or four cadets.

The cadet program will present you with a world of opportunities. The possibilities are endless. It will:

- Provide you with opportunities to develop leadership ability and to serve as a leader in various situations.
- Assist you in becoming an informed citizen in aerospace environmental issues.
- Help you develop self-discipline, self-confidence and good moral character.
- Make you aware of aerospace career options.
- Give you opportunities for flight experience and flight training.
- Provide you with opportunities for social relationships and help you mature socially.
- Broaden your experience base and provide travel opportunities outside your local area.
- Make it possible to earn educational and vocational scholarships.

The cadet program will provide you with direction. It can give you the means to learn just how much you are capable of and the knowledge of how to successfully meet your goals.

The rewards of the cadet program can be overwhelming. However, you can only get out of it what you put into it. We expect a lot out of our cadets. There are certain things you must do to be successful in the program. You will be required to do many things that you're not accustomed to doing. They may not (at the time) seem reasonable or fair. This is what you must learn to adapt to your environment and the situation. This is when you learn self-control and discipline. We will expect you to maintain the high standards of integrity and honor that characterize the name Fox Valley Composite Squadron IL 274.

So what should you be doing now? Once you've made the decision to join, the first two priorities are getting your papers in and trying to find a uniform. This process can become confusing so we'll describe it now.

First, get your paperwork in. When you are given the application materials, please fill out each one and bring it back the next week. Now, you need to have them signed by the Squadron Commander. Make sure that you contact the First Sergeant, they know you need your papers signed. The paperwork isn't over yet. We'll keep one copy of the forms at the squadron in your file, the others need to be sent to National Headquarters, along with your application and the appropriate fee. Our Administration Officer will provide the envelope and send the application in the mail. This fee will also cover your first set of text books which you need to progress through the enlisted ranks. They will automatically be sent to you from CAP.

Second, get your uniform together. The first priority when putting your uniforms together is to get the blues uniform first, (Hat, shirt, pants and belt will be sent to you from National Headquarters) Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) are not a necessity for the first few months. However, either one will work. Your squad leader will assist you in the proper placement of patches and devices on your uniforms. Black pants, white-collar button down shirt, and black shoes are recommended to wear at meetings until your uniform is complete. However it is not mandatory.

When you are looking at places to buy uniform parts, go to the local uniform and military surplus stores first. Their prices are usually lower on some items. However, the official store of CAP is Vanguard at [www.civilairpatrolstore.com](http://www.civilairpatrolstore.com) where all of the insignia, nameplates and nametapes can be purchased.

You have an exciting and challenging journey ahead of you. Within the next year you'll be doing things you've only dreamed were possible. It may be hard at first, but don't worry, uncertainty will quickly fade into enthusiasm and apprehension and apprehension will soon become ambition.

Once again, congratulations and welcome to Fox Valley Composite Squadron.

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