



Session Descriptions

Unless otherwise indicated, all sessions are open to all members.

Tracks include Partnerships, Education & Training and Specialty Tracks (E&T), Cadet Basic, and Cadet Advanced. Sessions and locations are subject to change, pay attention to announcements for updates.

Block 1: 0930-1015

Developing Partnerships

Track: Partnerships | Room: G | Instructors: Lt Col Ty Vannieuwenhoven, WIWG, CAP and Col Denese Helgeland, GLR, CAP

Strong local partnerships don't happen by accident—and they don't have to be complicated.

This session walks through the tools, resources, and support available from Wing to help your unit build meaningful relationships with local agencies and organizations. Learn how to confidently brief potential partners on CAP's capabilities, identify opportunities for joint training and exercises, and turn those connections into real-world mission opportunities.

Whether you're just getting started or looking to expand your current network, this session will help you move from "we should reach out" to actually making it happen.

Ideal for: Commanders, Deputy Commanders, Emergency Services staff, and any member involved in planning training, exercises, or community engagement.

Fundraising Made Easier with CharityEZ

Track: E&T | Room: E | Instructor: Lt Col Todd Mandel and Charity EZ Director Julie Luther

Finding funding doesn't have to be guesswork.

This session shows you how to use the free CharityEZ tool to identify donors and grantmakers in your local area. Learn how to search effectively, evaluate opportunities, and start building a list of potential funding sources for your unit.

If your squadron wants to move beyond the same few fundraisers and start tapping into grants and local support, this session will give you a practical place to start.

Ideal for: Commanders, Finance Officers, and members involved in fundraising, grants, or community support efforts.

Build & Launch: Understanding Wingtip Vortices

Track: E&T | Room: I | Instructor: Lt Col Dean Dolence and Lt Col Peter Boulanger

Wingtip vortices are more than a textbook concept—they're a real factor in aviation safety.

In this hands-on session, you'll build and test vortex cannons that send visible air currents across the room, giving you a clear, memorable understanding of how vortices form and behave. Along the way, we'll connect what you're seeing to real-world aviation impacts, including how vortices contribute to accidents. If you're looking for an engaging Aerospace Education activity you can bring back to your unit, this session delivers both the "why it matters" and the "how to teach it."

Ideal for: AE Officers, instructors, cadet programs staff, and anyone looking for hands-on AE activities.

Executive Leadership: Serving on Staff

Track: Cadet – Advanced | Room: B | Instructor: C/Capt Isabella Schleuse

Leadership in CAP grows through responsibility.

This session introduces what it means to serve on cadet staff, including expectations, responsibilities, and how to support your squadron effectively. Learn how to take the next step in leadership and contribute to your team.

Ideal for: Phase 2 and 3 Cadets moving into or interested in staff roles.

Team Leadership: Learning to Work as a Team

Track: Cadet – Basic | Room: A-C | Instructor: C/1st Lt Emily Kuhn

Being part of a strong team starts with understanding how to work together.

This session focuses on simple, hands-on team-building activities designed to help cadets communicate, collaborate, and solve problems as a group. It's a chance to build confidence while working with others in a relaxed, interactive setting.

Ideal for: Phase 1 and 2 Cadets looking to build teamwork and confidence.

Block 2: 1030-1115

~~US Coast Guard Capabilities & Opportunities for CAP Units - CANCELLED~~

Building Your Unit's Chaplain Team

Track: E&T | Room: I | Instructor: Chaplain (Lt Col) Bret Lortie and Chaplain (Lt Col) Linda Berez

A strong unit isn't just built on operations—it's built on people.

This session walks through how to identify, recruit, and onboard a CAP chaplain for your unit. Learn what to look for, how to approach potential candidates, and how to successfully integrate a chaplain into your squadron.

We'll also cover current Chaplain Corps updates relevant to Chaplains, Character Development Instructors (CDIs), and unit leadership, along with time for questions and discussion.

If your unit doesn't currently have a chaplain—or you want to better understand how to support and use this role—this session will give you a clear path forward.

Ideal for: Commanders, Deputy Commanders, CDIs, and any member involved in recruiting or supporting unit leadership roles.

Aerospace in Action: Earning the Yeager Award

Track: E&T | Room: E | Instructor: Lt Col Thomas "Flash" Gordon

Aerospace education isn't just a requirement—it's a chance to better understand the mission you support. This session walks through the Yeager Award in a practical, approachable way, with ideas for working individually or in small groups. We'll look at how to engage with the material, use available resources effectively, and connect aerospace learning to real CAP experiences.

We'll also review the AE Notebook and how it can support your progress, along with ways to build stronger engagement in senior member training.

If you're working on Level 2 or simply want to get more out of the aerospace side of CAP, this session will give you a clear and useful starting point.

Ideal for: Adult members working on Level 2, Aerospace Specialty Track, or anyone interested in aerospace education beyond the basics.

Public Speaking: Building Confidence and Clarity

Track: Cadet – Advanced | Room: B | Instructor: TBA

Speaking well is a skill you can build. This session focuses on practical ways to improve public speaking, whether you're just getting started or looking to grow more confident. Learn techniques to organize your thoughts, speak clearly, and present with confidence.

Ideal for: Phase 2 and 3 Cadets looking to build or improve public speaking skills.

Using Google Tools for CAP

Track: Cadet – Basic | Room: A-C | Instructor: C/2d Lt Tyler Wolff

CAP runs on communication—this session helps you keep up. Learn how to effectively use Google tools like email, Drive, and Meet to stay organized, communicate clearly, and complete tasks more efficiently. This is a practical session focused on tools you'll use regularly as a cadet.

Ideal for: Cadets looking to improve organization, communication, and digital skills.

Block 3: 1245-1330

American Red Cross Disaster Response

Track: Partnerships | Room: G | Instructor: Marcia Doll, ARC WI Region SW Preparedness Coordinator

Disaster response starts locally—and your squadron can play a role.

This session introduces how CAP units can partner with the American Red Cross to support disaster shelters and response operations. Learn how to connect with local Red Cross coordinators, what training is required, and how to get involved in preparedness exercises before a real-world event occurs.

If you're looking to expand your unit's impact in emergency services and build meaningful community partnerships, this session provides a clear path to get started.

Ideal for: Commanders, Emergency Services Officers, and members interested in disaster response, shelter operations, and community-based missions.

Cadet Programs: Building Confident Leaders

Track: E&T | Room: I | Instructor: Lt Col Joshua Risler, WI Wing Director of Cadet Programs

Leading cadets is one of the most rewarding roles in CAP—and one of the most impactful.

This session will help you get started or grow more effective as a Cadet Programs leader. We'll cover practical ways to lead cadets, support their development, and strengthen your unit's program, along with how the Cadet Programs Specialty Track supports your growth along the way.

Whether you're new to Cadet Programs or looking to sharpen your approach, you'll leave with ideas you can apply right away.

Ideal for: Deputy Commanders for Cadets, Cadet Programs staff, and adult members working in or entering Cadet Programs leadership roles.

Safety: Building a Culture That Works

Track: E&T | Room: E | Instructor: TSgt Jeremy Espil and Lt Col Todd Meyer

Safety culture is built through accountability and everyday actions.

This session explores how CAP members can actively reinforce the Core Values—Integrity, Respect, Excellence, and Volunteer Service—to strengthen safety at the unit level. We'll look at how to encourage reporting, reduce barriers, and learn from near-misses in a way that supports both members and the mission.

If you want to build a culture where people speak up, take ownership, and continuously improve, this session offers practical ways to make that happen.

Ideal for: Commanders, Safety Officers, and adult members committed to strengthening safety and accountability in their unit.

Planning Events That Work

Track: Cadet – Advanced | Room: B | Instructor: C/CMSgt Sherman and C/CMSgt Olivia Bond

Good events don't happen by accident.

Learn the basics of planning and running successful cadet events, from organizing ideas to working as a team and following through. This session focuses on simple steps you can use to make events more engaging and effective.

Ideal for: Phase 2 and 3 Cadets interested in leadership, planning, and running activities.

Uniform Wear: OCP Basics and Details

Track: Cadet – Basic | Room: A-C | Instructor: C/SMSgt Alex Landgraf

Looking sharp starts with knowing the details.

This session covers how to properly wear the OCP uniform, including common mistakes, placement, and small details that make a big difference. You'll leave with a clearer understanding of expectations and how to present yourself with confidence.

Ideal for: Phase 1 and 2 cadets and anyone wanting to improve uniform wear.

Block 4: 1345-1430

Rock County SAREX – What Worked, What Didn't, and What's Next for CAP

Track: Partnerships | Room: G | Instructor: Lt Col Chris Trossen, WEM, Kevin Wernet, Rock Co EM, and Col Denese Helgeland, GLR, CAP

What actually happens when CAP shows up to a county-led exercise—and how can your unit do it well?

This session breaks down CAP's role in the 2025 Rock County Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX), including what worked, what didn't, and what we learned working alongside local agencies. You'll get a realistic look at how CAP is perceived in a multi-agency environment and where units can improve to be stronger, more reliable partners.

We'll also cover how this partnership was built and how it can serve as a model for counties near your squadron—so you can move from internal training to meaningful, real-world exercises.

Ideal for: Commanders, ES Officers, and members looking to build local partnerships and participate in multi-agency exercises.

From Level 1 to Level 2: Keeping Members Engaged

Track: E&T | Room: E | Instructor: Maj Maryellen Merck

What happens after Level 1—and how do we keep members from stalling out?

This session focuses on simple, effective ways to encourage and support new members as they move into Level 2 and beyond. We'll share practical ideas to build momentum early, reduce common friction points, and help members stay engaged as they take on new training and responsibilities.

Designed as a collaborative discussion, you'll also hear what's working in other units and leave with ideas you can apply right away.

Ideal for: Commanders, Deputy Commanders, Professional Development Officers, and anyone supporting adult member progression.

Cadets in Public Affairs: Building Your PA Team

Track: E&T | Room: A-C | Instructor: C/Capt Noah Sabelko, C/1st Lt Kyle Wolff, with 1st Lt Jessica Schaefer

Cadets can play a meaningful role in supporting your squadron's Public Affairs efforts.

This session shows how to involve cadets in your Public Affairs program in a way that builds both their skills and your squadron's visibility. Learn how to mentor cadet PAOs, assign meaningful roles, and create a sustainable team that supports your unit's outreach.

We'll also cover practical, real-world topics: what to submit to Wing, how to make your unit more visible, what makes a strong submission, basic photo skills, and how to stay aligned with CAP regulations.

If you want to strengthen your PA program while developing cadet leaders, this session will give you the tools to do both.

Ideal for: Public Affairs Officers, Commanders, Cadet Programs staff, and cadets interested in PA or leadership roles.

Flight Academy & Earning Your Private Pilot License

Track: Cadet – Advanced | Room: B | Instructor: C/CMSgt Trenton Ptaschinski

Interested in flying? This is where to start.

Learn about CAP's flight training opportunities, including the Wings program, and what it takes to work toward your private pilot license. This session provides a clear overview of pathways, expectations, and how to get involved.

Ideal for: Phase 2 and 3 Cadets interested in aviation and flight training opportunities.

Color Guard: Getting Started and Getting Involved

Track: Cadet – Basic | Room: I | Instructor: C/CMSgt Sherman and C/CMSgt Olivia Bond

Color Guard is one of the most visible ways cadets represent CAP.

Learn the basics of how a color guard works, how to get one started in your squadron, and how it can support events in your community. This session provides a practical introduction and ideas you can bring back to your unit.

Ideal for: Phase 1 and 2 Cadets interested in ceremonies, drill, and representing their squadron with excellence.

Block 5: 1445-1530

WI Air Coordination Group & CAP Missions

Track: Partnerships | Room: G | Instructor: Levi Eastlick, WI DOT Aeronautic and Lt Col Chris Trossen, WEM

How does a local request turn into a CAP mission—and who's involved along the way?

This session walks through how agencies request CAP support and how those requests move from the local level through the Wisconsin Emergency Management Duty Officer and the Wisconsin Air Coordination Group. You'll gain a clear understanding of how missions are assigned, what partners are looking for, and how to help guide agencies through the process.

This is an open discussion designed to connect the dots, answer questions, and give you the confidence to support and engage local partners more effectively.

Ideal for: Commanders, ES Officers, Aircrew, and members working with local agencies or supporting mission coordination.

Aviation 101: Teach, Engage, Recruit

Track: E&T | Room: A-C | Instructor: Maj Robert Green, IAWG

Looking for a simple, effective way to grow Aerospace Education and recruiting in your community?

Aviation 101 is a four-hour outreach class that equips cadets to teach youth organizations the fundamentals of flight through a mix of classroom instruction and hands-on activities. This session offers a short, interactive preview of the program while walking through how to run it locally—covering the syllabus, setup, budget, timeline, and expected outcomes.

You'll leave with a clear understanding of how to launch Aviation 101 in your area and how to collaborate with other squadrons to share resources and ideas.

Ideal for: Commanders, AE Officers, Cadet Programs staff, and any member interested in outreach, recruiting, or hands-on AE programs.

Telling CAP's Story: Wisconsin Wing from WWII to Today

Track: E&T | Room: E | Instructor: Lt Col Jeffery Wiswell, Wing Historian

How did Wisconsin Wing begin—and why does that history still matter?

This session takes a look back at the earliest days of the Wisconsin Wing at the start of World War II, connecting those origins to the mission we carry out today. You'll also get a practical look at how the Wing's Annual History Report is built, what's needed from units, and why it matters.

If you've ever wondered how your unit's work fits into the bigger picture—or how to better capture and contribute to CAP's story—this session will give you both the context and the tools to do it well.

Ideal for: Unit Historians, Commanders, Public Affairs Officers, and anyone interested in preserving and sharing CAP's story.

Drill for Encampment: Large Formation Practice

Track: Cadet – Advanced | Room: B | Instructor: C/2d Lt Tyler Wolff

Drill looks different when the formation gets bigger.

This session helps cadets prepare for encampment by practicing drill in larger formations. You'll get a chance to learn, refine, and build confidence working as part of a bigger group.

Ideal for: Phase 2 and 3 Cadets preparing for serving at encampment or looking to improve drill skills.

STEM in Action (Hands-On Activity)

Track: Cadet – Basic | Room: I | Instructor: C/SMSgt Parker Muras

Learn by doing.

This hands-on session gives cadets a chance to explore STEM concepts through an interactive activity. Come ready to participate, experiment, and see how STEM connects to CAP and aviation.

Ideal for: Phase 1 and 2 Cadets who enjoy hands-on learning and trying something new.

Block 6: 1545-1630

Expanding Drone Operations in Wisconsin

Track: Partnerships | Room: I | Instructor: WI State Patrol Air Support Unit and Maj Scott Munns, WIWG

Drone operations are rapidly expanding—and CAP is part of that growth.

This session covers current opportunities through partnerships with the Wisconsin State Patrol and other agencies across the state. Learn about the Wisconsin Drone Network, where the CAP sUAS program stands today, and how units can get involved as demand for drone support continues to increase.

If your unit is looking to expand capabilities, support new mission types, or stay current with where operations are heading, this session will show you where to plug in.

Ideal for: Commanders, ES Officers, sUAS pilots and trainees, and members interested in expanding unit capabilities and mission opportunities.

Air Ops, Stan/Eval & Maintenance Updates: What's changing – and what do you need to know?

Track: E&T | Room: A-C | Instructor: Maj Peter Bianco, WIWG Chief of Staff - Operations

This roundtable brings together Air Operations, Standardization/Evaluation, and Maintenance to share key updates, clarify expectations, and answer your questions. Each area will cover what's new, what's being emphasized, and where units and aircrew should focus moving forward.

Designed as an open discussion, this session gives you direct access to Wing subject matter experts—so you can get clear answers and stay aligned.

Ideal for: Pilots, aircrew, maintenance officers, and any member involved in flight operations or aircraft readiness.

Communications: What's Changing and What It Means for You

Track: E&T | Room: B | Instructor: Maj Michael Krein, Lt Col Tim Slater, and Maj Travis Witt

Need a communications meeting? This session counts.

Get up to speed on recent changes, new communications ratings, and what they mean for you and your unit. We'll cover what's required, what's new, and where to focus—followed by an open Q&A to address your specific questions.

If you're working toward a comm rating or just want to stay current, this is a straightforward way to get the information you need.

Ideal for: Communications Officers, MRO/MSA trainees, and any member needing a communications meeting or update.

Step Up to Excellence: Preparing for your SUI

Track: E&T | Room: E | Instructor: Lt Col Stephen Michaels, WIWG IG

An SUI doesn't have to be something you just get through—it can be a tool to strengthen your unit.

This session focuses on how to prepare for your Subordinate Unit Inspection in a way that builds confidence and improves how your squadron operates. We'll walk through what to expect, how to get organized ahead of time, and how to use the process to identify strengths and areas for growth.

If you want to feel more prepared, less reactive, and come out of your SUI with a stronger unit, this session will give you a practical way to do it.

Ideal for: Commanders, Deputy Commanders, and adult members involved in unit administration and inspection preparation.

Shaping Education & Training: A Wing Town Hall

Track: E&T | Room: G | Instructor: Maj Maryellen Merck, WIWG Education & Training

What's ahead for Education & Training—and how can you be part of it?

Meet the new Director of Education & Training and hear the vision and priorities for the Wing. The session will start with a short overview, followed by an open discussion where you can ask questions, share ideas, and help shape the direction of E&T.

We'll cover key topics including Professional Levels and VolU, with time set aside for real conversation—not just a briefing.

If you've ever had questions, ideas, or feedback about training in CAP, this is your chance to be part of the discussion.

Ideal for: All senior members, especially those involved in Professional Development, training, or unit leadership.

