

Local Teen Takes to the Sky with the Civil Air Patrol

By 2nd Lt Alice Raatjes, Public Affairs Officer, Carroll Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol. www.carrollcap.org

April 2013. Westminster, Md. In 2012, Cadet Caelan Woryk a junior at Littlestown High School in Littlestown, Pennsylvania, joined the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Carroll Composite Squadron to participate in the aerospace science and leadership programs. Woryk has a desire to become a pilot and her participation in the CAP Cadet Orientation Flight program was 'awesome.' "Seeing the world from above is truly a wonder and it's an honor to be able to participate in activities that promote our personal growth. By taking flight with the cadets and pilots, you easily find trust in others and learn that you are indeed capable of what you may have thought was impossible." Woryk remarked after her second orientation flight.



Carroll Cadet Caelan Woryk loves flying, has taken two O-Flights, and is anxious to become more involved in ground and flight operations

The Cadet Orientation Flight (O-Flight) Program introduces youth to general aviation through hands-on orientation flights in single engine aircraft and, gliders. The program's motto describes what cadet flying is all about: "Safe, Fun, Educational." Many cadets are not only new to flying; they will be visiting a general aviation airport for the first time. During this activity, cadets learn about the airport's anatomy. O-Flights are viable components of the overall cadet-training program that help the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) to accomplish its goals in leadership, fitness and character.



Lt. Steve Vana, CAP Volunteer & Mission Pilot, provides new cadets the opportunity to share in the excitement of flight.

Lieutenant Steve Vana, a Civil Air Patrol Mission Pilot, takes his job seriously. He assures that cadets are well prepared for their o-flights and all safety protocols are followed. Vana piloted Cadet Woryk and other cadets through skies over Maryland and Pennsylvania. During the flight, cadets are given the opportunity to "take the wheel" and enjoy the absolute thrill of flying.

Talking about his experience, piloting cadets, Vana remarked, "Taking new cadets up for their first flights, I try to make sure they are comfortable and enjoy the experience if they [previously] have not flown in general aviation aircraft (there's no stewardess and certainly no restroom). Easy turns and descents, telling the cadet what's going to happen before we do it, and keeping their eyes outside the cockpit for spatial orientation (fights upset stomachs) are the order of the day. Ultimately, you would want the cadet to tell you that they enjoyed the flight and wanted to know when they could take the next flight. If that happens, it's cool. The pictures usually tell the story."

The Civil Air Patrol cadet orientation flight program provides an opportunity for cadets to experience the excitement of flying. While flying, cadets handle the flight controls, under the pilot's supervision, during the non-critical phases of flight. Safety is a priority. O-flights are opportunities for cadets to become safety conscious. To stay safe, cadets must learn to manage risks through Operational Risk Management (ORM). ORM is a common sense way to detect, assess, and control risk. This process involves having a team identify the activity's potential

hazards, assess the risks, and decide on risk controls before the activity begins. To learn more about ORM, visit the safety section at gocivilairpatrol.com. to become safety conscious. The O-flight program is limited to current Civil Air Patrol cadets under 18 years of age. At no time will cadets sustain any costs associated with this program. Senior members are not authorized to participate in flights being conducted as Air Force - assigned missions unless they are serving as the pilot in command or escorting a cadet who requires special assistance.

Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with 61,000 members nationwide, operating a fleet of 550 aircraft. CAP, in its Air Force auxiliary role, performs 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and is credited by the AFRCC with saving an average of 80 lives annually. Its volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to more than 26,000 young people currently participating in the CAP cadet programs. CAP received the World Peace Prize in 2011 and has been performing missions for America for 71 years. CAP also participates in Wreaths Across America, an initiative to remember, honor and teach about the sacrifices of U.S. military veterans. Visit www.gocivilairpatrol.com or www.capvolunteernow.com for more information.

Nearly 1,600 members of CAP serve in Maryland. Last fiscal year wing members flew 29 search and rescue missions and were credited with 13 finds saving three lives. Maryland Wing flew over 160 missions for the State of Maryland resulting in 2,222 hours flown. Volunteers contributed services estimated at \$4.2 million. For more information, contact the Maryland Wing at www.mdcap.org.

The Carroll Composite Squadron meets 7 p.m. Tuesday evenings at the Hilltop Assembly of God Church Hall at 30 North Cranberry Road in Westminster, Maryland. Prospective cadets, ages 12-18, and their parents are always welcome. Adults seeking mentoring opportunities are invited as well. For more information e-mail carrollcomposite@yahoo.com or visit www.carrollcap.org.

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