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**Contact:**

Ashley Saunders

703-684-5437

**NGYF and Civil Air Patrol Partner to Provide Aviation and Aerospace STEM Training to National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program**

**Alexandria, VA** – The National Guard Youth Foundation (NGYF) is partnering with Civil Air Patrol (CAP), the official Auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, and, a 501c3 nonprofit, humanitarian organization, to launch an aviation and aerospace-focused science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education initiative for cadets of the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program. The new initiative provides STEM training resources to all Challe*NG*e participants across the country to prepare cadets for the job market’s growing demand for employees with STEM skills.

“We are committed to helping the young men and women of the ChalleNGe program prepare for the workforce and to make sure they find a pathway to a fulfilling and self-sustaining adulthood,” **said Louis A. Cabrera, president of NGYF.** “Partnerships like the one with Civil Air Patrol are absolutely critical to providing ChalleNGe participants exposure to career opportunities in high-demand fields, and we are grateful for their involvement and investment in the kids.”

The CAP aviation and aerospace STEM programs include more than 40 educational products in areas, such as, astronomy, flight simulation, model aircraft and remote control, robotics and rocketry. These programs will be available at no cost to the more than 12,000 participants of the ChalleNGe program in 27 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia.

“CAP is proud to be able to work in alliance with the National Guard Youth Foundation to help provide stimulating and engaging CAP STEM education products and programs to the Youth ChalleNGe cadets. Finding ways that CAP’s unpaid professionals across the nation can work in mentorship with the ChalleNGe cadets is paramount to the success of the programs CAP will provide to the youth. ” **said Maj. Gen. Joe Vazquez, CAP’s national commander.**

NGYF is currently pursuing other partners to provide additional educational and workforce development resources to cadets and graduates of all 35 Challe*NG*e programs across the country.

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**About the National Guard Youth Foundation**

The National Guard Youth Foundation is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to addressing the nation’s school dropout crisis by giving youth a second chance through the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program. NGYF advocates for and supports ChalleNGe, run by the National Guard; raises awareness of the impact that the school dropout crisis has on our society, economy and national security; and provides ChalleNGe graduates with scholarships and career support to help them continue on their path of success. For more information, visit [www.ngyf.org](http://www.ngyf.org/).

**About the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program**

Conducted at 35 academies across the country, the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program is operated in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Defense, National Guard Bureau, state governments and local sites. The program consists of a 5 1/2-month residential phase framed around eight core components: academic excellence, responsible citizenship, physical fitness, leadership/followership, job skills, service to the community, health and hygiene and life coping skills, and a 12-month post residential phase during which mentors continue to provide guidance and support to graduates.

Helping more than 130,000 teens to date turn their lives around, ChalleNGe is recognized as among the most cost-effective, highly rated programs of its kind for youth who have dropped out of school. An independent, multi-year study of the program by MDRC shows that high school diploma/ GED attainment increased by 29%; college attendance increased by 86% and annual earnings increased by 20%. An independent cost-benefit analysis by the RAND Corporation shows a 166% return on investment in the program – every dollar spent yielded a return of $2.66 in benefits to society.

**About Civil Air Patrol**

Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with 58,000 members nationwide, operating a fleet of 550 aircraft. CAP, in its Air Force auxiliary role, performs about 85 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 70 lives annually. Its unpaid professionals 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 24,000 young people currently participating in the CAP cadet programs. Performing missions for America for the past 73 years, CAP received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2014 in honor of the heroic efforts of its World War II veterans. CAP also participates in Wreaths Across America, an initiative to remember, honor and teach about the sacrifices of U.S. military veterans. Visit [www.capvolunteernow.com](http://www.capvolunteernow.com/) for more information.