

2025

SENIOR MEMBER WELCOME GUIDE

CIVIL AIR PATROL

CIVIL AIR PATROL
OAKLAND COMP SQUADRON

A Place to Serve

The opportunities are boundless - come and find a place to grow and serve in community.

Though Civil Air Patrol is known for its flying missions, adults in CAP - known as Senior Members - serve in an huge range of jobs and roles. Less than one-fifth of all CAP members are pilots or aircrew members. CAP adult members come from all walks of life.

Adult members help out at the squadron with day-to-day operations like accounting, inventory, or personnel records. In emergency services, members serve in communications, transportation of goods, photography, or helping distribute water and food. CAP has more than 32,000 youth in its Cadet Program. Adult members help in all aspects of the cadet program.

There are many opportunities to serve as a volunteer in Civil Air Patrol.



CAP's Three Main Missions:

- Aerospace Education
- Cadet Programs
- Emergency Services

First Steps

01

Talk with Other Senior Members

Come and get to know us, and we'll get to know you. You must attend three meetings before requesting membership. Take that time to get a feel for things, ask questions, and find out how you can be involved.

02

Talk with Membership Board

Membership in CAP is a privilege, not a right. All applicants must be accepted by the unit and higher headquarters, and must meet the objective criteria for membership.

03

Send in Your Dues, Application, & Fingerprint Card

All active adult members must be screened and registered by National Headquarters.

Once you become a member of the Civil Air Patrol and our Squadron, you will be assigned a mentor to help guide you through your introduction to CAP. Typically done online, on your own time, Level 1 and Level 2.A training will provide you will a great overview of Civil Air Patrol, our missions, goals, procedures, and opportunities.

FAQs

Are there age restrictions to join?

Adult members must be at least 18 years old. There is no maximum age limit to join or remain as an adult member.

Do members have to wear a uniform?

Adult members may wear the USAF-style uniforms or one of the distinctive CAP uniforms, but usually, some type of uniform is required to participate in activities, events and missions.

Are CAP members part of the military?

CAP membership does not equate to membership in the military. CAP is a private, non-profit humanitarian organization, which is the official auxiliary of the United States Air Force.

For more FAQs and to learn about opportunities for pilots, visit gocivilairpatrol.com



The Uniform

Options for Adults

There are numerous options for Senior Member Uniforms. Air Force weight requirements and grooming regulations apply for USAF style uniforms. For details, see CAP Regulation 39-1



- ☑ Corporate Working Uniform (Polo)
- ☑ Aviator Shirt Uniform
- ☑ Corporate Field Uniform (Blue BDUs)
- ☑ Corporate Flight Duty Uniform

Under Air Force Weight & Grooming Restrictions:

- ☑ Airman Battle Uniform (ABU)*
- ☑ Service Uniform (Blues)*
- ☑ USAF-style Flight Duty Uniform



Uniform Overview: Non-USAF



Corporate Working Uniform

CAP dark blue polo shirt, black belt, medium gray pants, black socks, black shoes.
See pages 79 & 80 of CAPR 39-1 for more details.



Aviator Shirt Uniform

White Aviator Shirt with gray epaulets showing rank, black belt, medium gray pants, black socks, black shoes. See pages 61-67 of CAPR 39-1 for more details



Corporate Field Uniform

The Corporate version of the Battle Uniform, in Navy (**not** LAPD Navy). See pages 78-80 of CAPR 39-1 for more details. There are variations of the shirt/jacket. Be sure the version you purchase has four pockets.



Corporate Flight Duty Uniform

Navy flight suit for members who perform flight related duties including pilots, scanners, observers.
See pages 106-108 of CAPR 39-1 for more details.

Whatever uniform you choose to wear, wear it with pride.

Uniform Overview: USAF Style



Airman Battle Uniform (ABUs)

The most common work duty uniform, worn from everything from search & rescue to meetings. ABU blouse and pant; sand undershirt, black socks, black combat boots. See details in this guide and CAPR 39-1



USAF Style Service Uniform (Blues)

Blue Air Force dress shirt with gray epaulets showing rank once achieved. Blues Slacks or skirt. Long sleeve, short sleeve, tie/tie tab or open collar. White undershirt, Black socks, black shoes.



USAF-Style Flight Duty Uniform

Olive drab (OD) Nomex flight suit for members who perform flight related duties including pilots, scanners, observers.
See pages 106-108 of CAPR 39-1 for more details.

There is only one way to wear the uniform: The right way.

Grooming & Restrictions

The image CAP members present to the public will leave a lasting impression about them and the Civil Air Patrol. Take time to know and wear their choice of uniform properly and proudly.

For all uniforms:

- Clean face, clean hands, clean fingernails
- Good personal hygiene overall
- Uniform items themselves are clean and smell fresh

For USAF style uniforms, the above plus:

- Haircut and facial grooming
- Meet the Weight Limits by Height
- All detailed in CAP Regulation 39-1





USAF Style Uniform Restrictions

	MEN	WOMEN
HEIGHT	CAP standard (Maximum Allowable Weight)	CAP Standard (Maximum allowable Weight)
4'10"	164	145
4'11"	166	147
5'	168	150
5'1"	171	152
5'2"	174	155
5'3"	176	156
5'4"	180	161
5'5"	186	165
5'6"	191	170
5'7"	197	175
5'8"	202	180
5'9"	208	185
5'10"	213	190
5'11"	219	195
6'	225	200
6'1"	232	207
6'2"	240	213
6'3"	246	219
6'4"	253	226
6'5"	260	231
6'6"	266	237
6'7"	273	243
6'8"	279	249

NOTES:

1. Members who are aged 18 and older must meet CAP weight standards in order to wear the USAF-style uniform.
2. A weight allowance of up to 3 pounds for clothing (excluding footwear) is authorized.
3. Height measurements do not include footwear.
4. Round up to the nearest inch.

TAKEN FROM CAP REGULATION 39-1
AUG 9, 2021 UPDATE

The ABU Uniform: Step 1

We may have the following items available thanks to the USAF and former and current CAP members. Please check with Squadron leadership.

Uniforms received from the squadron or from CAP funds should be returned to the squadron when no longer needed or when you leave CAP, so that they can be passed on again.



ABU CAP ("COVER")



ABU BLOUSE



ABU PANT

Tip: Pants are designed to be worn high over the hips. Many choose to wear shorts, leggings, or baselayers (long johns) under for comfort or warmth.

Buying your ABUs? Shop on Vanguard under CAP Clothing.

Other sources to check include the following.
See the warning on the prior page.

Ebay
Mercari
Propper.com
UniformTradingCompany.com
MilitaryUniformSupply.com
ArmySurplusWorld.com
AFSurplus.com
Uniforms-4u.com
CAP Uniform Exchange group on Facebook. (Unofficial)

The ABU Uniform: Step 2

Looking for more details? See CAP Regulation 39-1



BLACK COMBAT BOOTS

There are many brands and retailers available that are appropriate for CAP wear. Sometimes called “tactical boots”, try to find models that advertise that they are an “8-inch” boot.



TSHIRTS

Desert Sand / Tan Crew Neck t-shirts are available on Vanguard or a multitude of other sources. Consider buying multiple Tan Crew Neck for ABU wear and White V-neck for Blues. The proper color for ABUs is "Sand." If wearing the Corporate Field Uniform, black is the proper color t-shirt.

RIGGER BELT



You can order from Vanguard, search “CAP Rigger Belt” as there is more than one listing and some listings only offer small sizes. Alternatively, purchase the Propper Tactical Duty Belt or upgrade to a quick release rigger belt, both found at various sources. These also called BDU belts. If you are wearing the Corporate Field Uniform, black is the appropriate belt color

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BLACK BOOT SOCKS

Good socks make marching easier! Tall boot socks can be found many places including Walmart, Target, and Amazon. Womens are usually not tall enough, buy Mens.

The ABU Uniform: Step 3

Be sure to purchase the sew on tape and not hook and loop, which are used for various jackets and outerwear.
For details on placement, see CAP Regulation 39-1

NAME TAPE

CAP TAPE



MICHIGAN WING PATCH



BOOT BLOUSERS

Tip: The only way to wear your uniform is the right way! Do not wear your uniform until you have all pieces and nametapes in place.





An Important Note:

Members who buy uniform items from other than AAFES MCSSs should check the reliability of the seller and make sure each garment has an USAF certification label. Members must be careful about buying from commercial sources. The articles may have been rejected by government buyers, may not conform to specifications, or may be in the process of being phased out. Uniform items that do not meet USAF specifications are not authorized for wear. Each uniform item must have this label sewn or stamped on permanently: “USAF CERTIFICATE NO . A sample of this item has been inspected and meets or exceeds the quality prescribed by AF Specification .” - from CAPR 39-1, 1.3.3.2





Welcome to the Oakland Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol

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Tip: Once your membership is approved, you will be eligible to activate an official CAP email account. Insructions will be provided at that time.

Important Websites

- Michigan Wing CAP: https://miwg.cap.gov
- Michigan Wing CAP Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/MIWGCAP
- Michigan Wing CAP Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/MIWGCAP
- CAP National Headquarters: https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com

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