



BEXAR COUNTY SENIOR SQUADRON
CIVIL AIR PATROL
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY
8810 Spanish Moss
Windcrest, Texas 78239

May 22, 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR NEW MEMBERS

FROM: DOR

SUBJECT: Follow-up Letter

Dear Prospective Member,

As an emergency services squadron, an exact schedule for attending real missions is impossible to project because tornados, wildfires, hurricanes, or flooding occur without notice. Members enter their availability into an online system. When an emergency arises we call the people who have said they are available on that day of the week, or that time of day.

CAP does not require a minimum time commitment to be a member; however, CAP has many technical training opportunities available. Members who are not active participants in the squadron and participate infrequently forget some of the information they learn and will not be proficient when participating in flight crews or other emergency services roles. This is an added strain for other volunteers, and could add to the risk level of the mission. On the day of an actual emergency there is no time to retrain members if they haven't maintained their proficiencies. Participating on a routine basis and having proficient skills lead to frequent requests to participating in actual missions.

Being in the aircraft is always fun and exciting, but an active CAP member holds many roles other than flying. Members who aren't flying offer their skills to assist in a finance role, with human resources, helping with the computer systems, assisting as a maintenance officer, working a position on the ground at mission base running the mission board, or operating the radios as a Mission Radio Operator, or as a Flight Release Officer. Bexar County Senior Squadron looks for good people who can volunteer their time and experience in more ways than just flying planes.

Members are responsible for paying national dues, squadron dues, uniform, and transportation costs. There is an expense to joining CAP, our goal is to get the most training and experience out of your expense in order to benefit yourself and CAP.

Below is an estimated timeline for new members joining CAP:

- Attend 2 meetings to be eligible for application.
- Complete the CAP application paperwork and turn it in along with a finger print card.
- Pay the national dues of \$76 (subject to change).
- Squadron dues are \$5 per month for non-pilots and \$10 per month for pilots (paid annually in January).

- Complete the pre-requisite lessons, videos and quizzes on-line about CAP, FEMA and Emergency Services. Completion of the lessons is MANDATORY prior to participating in ANY CAP events.
- Bexar County Senior Squadron has 2 meetings per month. The first meeting of the month is a mandatory safety meeting. If unable to attend the meeting, a makeup session on-line must be completed to participate in any CAP events before the next safety meeting the following month.
- Scanner training. You do not have to be a pilot in order to be a scanner. Scanner training currently is scheduled quarterly and announced at the squadron meeting. Scanner training completes many of the pre-requisites for the Scanner position.
- The completions of 2 actual or training missions as a scanner trainee are required for the completion of scanner before moving on to the Observer position. Training missions are scheduled about 1-3 months in advance, based upon funding from the U.S. Air Force. There are typically 6-10 training missions per year in the South Texas area.
- The Observer position (or as some people call it the co-pilot position) does not require a pilot's license. To become a CAP Mission Pilot, a pilot's license and the completion of Observer training is required. CAP pilots fly a variety of different roles including Cadet Orientation pilot, ROTC orientation pilot, Counterdrug pilot, Transport pilot, high-bird pilot and Mission pilot. These certifications may take a couple of years to complete and there are minimum PIC hours required for each of these different pilot positions.

CAP looks for good people who have the time to dedicate and devote to volunteering. All the training in CAP is done by volunteers offering their very valuable time away from their job and families. Participation and consistent attendance is requested in return for the valuable training and creates beneficial and proficient members of our squadron. Please consider this before contemplating joining.

CAP is a great organization filled with many dedicated volunteers willing to share their experience for the benefit of those in need in our community.

Best of luck,

//SIGNED//
STEVE RICE, Capt, CAP
Deputy Commander
Recruitment and Retention Officer