



St Cloud Composite Squadron Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

DUE TO COVID 19 all upcoming events are TENTATIVE. Please check online for further information.

- **June 26th - July 3rd 2021**
MN Wing Encampment
- **August 7th 2021**
Paynesville Airshow
- **August 12th - August 14th, 2021** **National Conference**
- **August 18th - August 22nd, 2021** **The Wall That Heals**



Tips N' Tricks: Encampment

With Summer comes many things. One of these things are one of the best days of a Cadet's life. This would be Encampment. An Encampment is usually a week-long Cadet activity where the core values are displayed on full force 24/7 and where many things from the program are taught and implemented. So you might want to get ready for Encampment. Here is some advice from cadets who attended Encampment in the past which are:

- Think small. Only bring what you need and don't bring any unnecessary extra items.
- Pack several days before hand and double check before you leave.
- Take advantage of Encampment. Your Staff is there to help you. Come with an open mind and make friends. Learn the most you can out of Encampment and have a great mindset about it!
- Break in your boots before Encampment.
- Start hydrating before Encampment and always stay hydrated during Encampment.
- Cut your hair short before Encampment.
- Follow directions and respect your Staff.
- And make sure to have fun while you're there!

TALES OF TRADITION: Challenge Coins

What is a challenge coin? Why do people have it? When did it start? Why is it called a challenge coin? I'll tell you on today's tales of tradition.

First off, the Challenge Coin is a coin given to a member by a superior or organization for an achievement. The coin is also known to be given out as collectibles or souvenirs at events or by organizations. The coin's appearance can vary and ranges from nickel to gold. The majority of coins are round but can take shapes such as the shape of a state. Coins can have many unique designs on them from organization's symbols to pop culture references. A coin cannot be defaced by any means and coins have more value when given by someone higher in command or ranked in difficulty in attaining it. For example, a coin you bought online would be worthless than a coin earned by someone. A coin also presented by a General would outrank one that was presented by a Sergeant.

Usually, a person who received a challenge coin received it as a reward for outstanding service or performance of duty. The coin may have military origins and traditions, but other organizations outside the military have them as well. People who give their coins hold positions and give them out to their members. Their coins can have unique designs. In fact, since the 1990s, many Presidents of the United States of America are known to have challenge coins.

The reason a challenge coin is called a challenge coin goes back in tradition. This will always vary by unit to unit, but it refers to the term "Challenging". A "Challenging" is a way to make sure a unit's members always have their coin on them. A challenger may challenge people if they have their coin on them by slapping their coin down. Everyone else must take their coin out and slam them as well. Whoever doesn't have their coin must buy drinks for everyone in the building. If everyone has their coins, then the challenger must buy drinks.

The first known use of a coin given out as a reward goes back to the days of the Roman Empire. During the Renaissance era, coins or "Renaissance medals" had notable events on them or a symbol of family lineage were given out and friends would trade with each other these medals. The first modern use is commonly cited as prior to the U.S. involvement in WW1. A lieutenant ordered medallions for his unit and one of his pilots wore his around his neck. The pilot was shot down behind enemy lines and was taken prisoner by the German infantry. They took his personal documents to discourage him from escaping but he escaped anyways and wore civilian clothing. He headed back through enemy territory and arrived to a friendly French outpost. The French infantry didn't recognize his accent and were going to shoot him since they thought he was a German saboteur because they would sometimes wear civilian clothing. They were about to shoot him when they saw his squadron's symbol on his medallion. They went to confirm his identity and instead of shooting him, they gave him a bottle of wine. After that, everyone in his unit wore medallions around their neck.

Now you know a little bit more about these metallic medallions made and gained from metallic hard work and effort.



Spotlight On Squadron Member

2d Lt Elizabeth Moscatelli

Emergency Services, St. Cloud Composite Squadron



Why did you join Civil Air Patrol?

When I was a teenager my brother did the Sea Cadet program and I was interested in joining. My mom said, "no it was too far of a drive." She looked online and found a local squadron in Hutchinson. She brought me to my first meeting and said I had to go to 3 meetings. If I didn't like it, I never had to go back. I turned in my paperwork at the 3rd meeting and never looked back.

What has been the most challenging experience in your career in Civil Air Patrol?

Honestly, developing my leadership style. When I first joined, I was very hard-headed and an aggressive leader. If there was a goal, I wanted to meet it as fast as possible regardless of if it was my best or not. Since then, with proper mentorship, I've slowed down and become less aggressive and focused more on subordinate care.

The proudest thing you have accomplished in Civil Air Patrol

Getting my Mitchell award. When I joined, I was 16 and if you promote on time, all the time I would have barely had enough time to get my award before I left for the army. It meant I had to be dedicated and do my best every time I took a test or had a board review. I did make it and got my award 4 weeks before I left for basic.



Interesting things we should know about you

When I first joined CAP, I did not like ES. It was my least favorite part of the program. It wasn't until I became an adult and finished my first year in the Army that that changed. It became easy and second nature. I realized I didn't give it a fighting chance when I was younger for me to grow to like it. Also, during my term as Cadet Commander, my squadron received Squadron of the Year.

Why did you join the Army and what do you do in it?

When I found CAP, it turned my life around and I knew I wanted to join the military in some fashion. After my first O-flight, I got really sick and decided I needed to stay on the ground, so Air Force was out. For a similar reason, I wasn't really interested in the Navy. I started talking to an Army recruiter that worked with our squadron and before I knew it, I was enlisting. I went to my first drill and everything clicked. I was finally home and exactly where I was supposed to be. I am an SGT in the army with the 434th Chem Co. We will be heading to the Middle East to do peacekeeping and training.

Why Emergency Services?

When I joined CAP again, I was asked to take the ES position. There was, and definitely is still, a learning curve. I like being in the field and working with cadets. It's a roundabout way of teaching confidence, responsibility, and accountability which I feel are important traits for good leadership.

Any advice for members of the squadron?

Do not be afraid to apply for things you do not think you are qualified for. I was flight commander at C/SSgt and cadet commander at C/SMSgt. You may have more qualities or experience that will be helpful to the position than you realize. Either you will get the experience of going through the application process or you will get the position and the experiences going with it.



St. Cloud Composite Squadron's Color Guard Posts The Colors At Aiden Staup's Eagle Scout Award.

The St. Cloud Composite Squadron Color Guard was honored to be present at C/SMSgt. Aiden Staup's Eagle Scout Award Presentation on Sunday, May 16th in Milaca, Minnesota. The Eagle Scout Award is the highest rank a Boy Scout can earn, and Aiden Staup earned this award not only in four years, but also at the age of 14. In order to earn the accolade, Staup would work over the course of a year on his Eagle Scout project, a community fire pit in Milaca's recreational park. He would receive permission from his Scoutmaster to begin the project on the 1st of March 2020. Throughout 2020 Aiden would lead fundraising efforts and receive city permission all of which would have to be adapted due to the challenges presented by Covid-19 restrictions.



Top: C/SMSgt Staup with Lt. Col Warneke

Aiden has been in scouting for over eight years. He started as a Tiger Cub and earned both the religious emblem and Arrow of Light before crossing over to Boy Scouts three years ago at the age of 11. Some favorite moments in Scouting were at Many Point Scout Camp and racing up the rock climbing wall with his friends, riding ATVs, Life-Saving Merit Badge, and going on a canoeing trip. Scouts has been an engaging program for him, with many volunteer opportunities in his community, where he can set a good example but still have fun. He has had many leadership opportunities and served as an Assistant Patrol, Patrol Leader and he is currently the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader.

When Aiden joined Civil Air Patrol two years ago he had already been able to see the program from the outside as his sister, Lauren, had been a member for two years already. He aligned himself with the CAP core values as well as the Scouts code of honor. Civil Air Patrol was much more structured and formal with the customs and courtesies, drill, and test taking, and he was also interested in the many facets of CAP such as Emergency Services and Aerospace education opportunities. Aiden saw it as a challenge, a great learning experience, and a stepping stone for building his future. Both the Boy Scouts and Civil Air Patrol have a set of values that Aiden agreed with, promoted community service, and offered leadership opportunities. He has taken things that he learned as a scout and brought them to Civil Air Patrol, such as his camping, survival skills and life saving that he has been able to employ in the Emergency Services; and things from Civil Air Patrol and brought them to Scouts, such as a love of physical training, leadership skills and an appreciation of the uniform.



Top: The Color Guard posing with C/SMSgt Staup and Lt. Col Warneke

Aiden's family is very present in his life. Aiden's older brother, Collin, is also an Eagle Scout Award recipient. His project was the flagpole at Recreation Park in Milaca in 2018. Aiden's mother, 1st Lieutenant Leah Staup would introduce both Aiden and his sister Lauren Staup to Civil Air Patrol through the Civil Air Patrol cadet program. His family is very proud of his accomplishments in both the Boy Scouts and Civil Air Patrol as well as his successes as a young man.

As a Cadet in the St. Cloud Composite Squadron, Aiden worked quickly at the beginning of his Civil Air Patrol journey to get to C/MSgt and maintained his Cadet Sergeant status for a while to try to staff an Encampment as a Flight Sergeant and, although he was unable to staff, he has been an Element Leader, Public Affairs Officer publishing two Squadron Newsletters, and is currently the Flight Sergeant for the Squadron. He also was very involved in Wreaths Across America in both fundraising efforts and personally placing wreaths at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Bottom: C/MSgt Fisher and C/TSgt Sun performing Present Arms



The St. Cloud Composite Squadron Color Guard along with Lt. Col. Shawn Warnake and many other Squadron members were present for the award ceremony. Aiden specifically requested that the St. Cloud Composite Squadron Color Guard was present to post and retrieve the colors for the ceremony and we were honored to do so as well as be present for such a significant accomplishment. The Squadron was honored to be present at this award ceremony and represent the Civil Air Patrol. We applaud your successes as a leader and active member of your community.

St. Cloud Composite Squadron Cadets Attend Virtual Conference

Submitted By C/SSgt Benjamin Greshowak

Three St. Cloud Composite Squadron Cadets, Benjamin, Megan, and Lukas Greshowak had the privilege of attending the California Wing's virtual Cadet Programs Conference back in mid February of 2021. More than 300 squadrons from 32 different states participated, including cadets from Puerto Rico, the UK and Germany. Since the conference was virtual, it created more opportunities for out of state cadets to experience the conference and have access to the wide variety of speakers and expo guests that would otherwise not have been available to most cadets outside of California.

The conference was a three and a half day virtual conference for cadets hosted by the California Wing, dedicated to educating cadets through 75 different classes and seminars to choose from, an ACE Expo Career Fair, an Activities Fair, a plethora of guest speakers and honorary guests, a STEM fair, Education Expo, Emergency Services Center and yes, even optional avatar dancing commands. Due to Californian Covid restrictions, the program was made on a virtual platform. This allowed you to customize your own avatar, teleport to different locations on a virtual map, use chat and microphone features, experience games and lectures in first and third person, engage in chat rooms with guest speakers, the audience and other cadets. Highlights included the ability to talk one-on-one with high ranking military figures, guest speakers, and recruiters. Many of these individuals were CAP cadets when they were younger and ALL of them were willing to talk with you and genuinely wanted to help answer your questions or find someone who could.



From Left to Right: C/SSgt Benjamin Greshowak, C/A1C Megan Greshowak, and Lukas Greshowak

This was an excellent conference and well run platform for cadets, and we encourage all cadets to attend any other events like these that present themselves in these unprecedented times. Hopefully this can be a program that can continue next year and into post-Covid Civil Air Patrol events as it was a truly excellent program that reached cadets across the country and overseas with very useful and impactful information.

Even though Covid-19 restrictions are a limiting factor for Civil Air Patrol operations and activities, Covid-19 has also given us new opportunities such as being able to have hundreds of cadets from different states and regions be able to attend this conference that otherwise would have not been available to them. The Greshowak's gave the St. Cloud Composite Squadron a presentation of the experience to other squadron cadets and encouraged them to pursue opportunities available to them through Civil Air Patrol.

Bottom: The Greshowaks in the virtual world



Cadets

Promotions

Achievement 9 - C/2d Lt Abraham Berg-Arnold

Mitchell - C/2d Lt Abraham Berg-Arnold

Doolittle - C/SMSgt Aiden Staup

Rickenbacker - C/TSgt Tobias Dvorak and C/TSgt Leo Sun

Wright Bros. - C/SSgt Samuel McCoy, C/SSgt Benjamin Greshowak, and C/SSgt George Berg-Arnold

Feik - C/SrA Benedict Dvorak

Arnold - C/A1C Jack Atwood, C/A1C Lukas Greshowak, and C/A1C Megan Greshowak

Awards

Two-Year Red Service Ribbon - C/SMSgt Aiden Staup, C/TSgt Ashley Eblen, and C/SSgt Nathan Wiener

Community Service Ribbon - C/MSgt Caleb Fisher and C/SSgt Benjamin Greshowak

Community Service Clasp - C/SMSgt Aiden Staup and C/SSgt Benjamin Greshowak

Recruiter Ribbon - C/SSgt Benjamin Greshowak

Challenge Coin Recipients - C/TSgt Leo Sun, C/SSgt Benjamin Greshowak, C/A1C Lukas Greshowak, and C/A1C Megan Greshowak

Senior Members

Awards

MN Wing Public Affairs Officer Of The Year - 2d Lt Joseph Calandra

Robert Dunbar Award For Excellence In The Communications Field - Maj Richard Josephson

Benjamin O'Davis Award - 1st Lt Chuck Amundson

Yeager Award - 1st Lt Leah Staup

Loening Award - 1st Lt Leah Staup

Disaster Relief Ribbon with V - 2d Lt Joseph Calandra

Two-Year Red Service Ribbon - 2d Lt James Eblen, and 2d Lt Charissa Stevens

Achievement Award - 2d Lt Joseph Calandra

Commander's Corner

Have you checked your mission gear lately?

Spring has sprung and the weather is getting nicer with each passing day; the long winter nap is over. This year has been especially rough with Covid shutting most everything down. With the world being shut down, it is easy for us to put things aside or put things away and out of sight. All too often, when we are not training or working on real world missions, our mission gear gets set aside where it is out of sight and out of mind. This can lead to equipment deteriorating, which leads to equipment failure. This can also lead to a lack of comprehension on what gear you have at your disposal. To help mitigate this, I recommend pulling out your gear, fully unpacking and repacking it 2 to 3 time a year. By checking your gear, you are ensuring that your gear is in good condition and that it is fully functional. Repacking your gear regularly also helps with muscle memory. It is of highest importance that you know what you have and where it is in your pack. This can mean the difference between a save and a fatality.

This concept does not pertain to one area of ES or the other but blankets all areas of ES equally. If I asked you right now (without looking) to tell me what survival gear you have in your 24/72 hour pack or in your mission flight bag, could you do it? If your answer was no, or you had to think on that for a moment, maybe it is time you check your packs.

Semper Vigilans!

