

Approaching AE Deadlines

Two programs remain for 2010: Educator Grant applications are now open and close November 10, 2010. Registration for VISIONS is also now open.

AFA Announces 2010 National Aerospace Teacher of the Year

The Air Force Association announced Allen Robnett, a dedicated teacher at Gallatin High School, Gallatin, Tennessee, is the 25th recipient of the prestigious National Aerospace Teacher of the Year Award.

Robnett will receive a \$3,000 cash award and plaque at the AFA Field Awards Dinner on September 11 at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center near Washington, DC. In addition, he will be introduced during the Convention and be offered the opportunity to meet the SECAF and CSAF and attend the Symposium thanks to a generous donation from AFA's Alamo Chapter in honor of Dr. Kaye H. Biggar, Ph.D. and the late Kermit V. "B.J." Bjorge, two "AE Giants" in Texas AFA. Also, earning cash awards of \$2,000 and \$1,000 respectively for second and third place are Carolyn Bushman of Utah and Cyndi Stone of Florida.



National Aerospace Teacher of the Year Allen Robnett on right

Robnett has been a teacher for 29 years. He currently teaches algebra, physics, aviation, and astronomy at Gallatin High School in Gallatin TN. His interest in aerospace education began in 2005 when he attended "Eyes on the Skies" workshop at Vanderbilt University. Since then, he has incorporated all forms of aerospace education into his classes. In response to the nationwide problem of diminished participation in science classes at the secondary level, he helped obtain approval from the State Department of Education to create two innovative programs in the science department of Gallatin High School: "Aviation Theory and Practice" and "Astronomy and Space Exploration."

CyberPatriot III Is Here!

By: Max Friedauer, AFA National Director and CP Coordinator

CyberPatriot had it's beginnings in Florida with the first "Concept Demo" competition with seven Air Force JROTC and one Civil Air Patrol teams in Orlando from 26-27 February 2009. Since then we conducted a "Pilot National Deployment" with approx 200 teams participating and again conducted finals in Orlando from 18-19 February 2010. This coming school year we are going to "Full National Deployment," with up to 500 team slots reserved in the "All-Service" Division for JROTC units of all the services and the Civil Air Patrol. In a separate, but parallel competition, we will have an "Open" Division available to up to 500 high school teams nationwide. Both competitions will culminate at an in-person Championship at the Gaylord National Resort to be held on 1-2 April 2011 in conjunction with the new CyberFutures Conference and Technology Exposition. Now that we are in "Full National Deployment" for CPIII, every state can show their stuff by continuing their participation and fielding as many teams as possible. This year the competition is open to all high schools, all service JROTC, and all civil air patrol units. We will accept the first 500 all service division and first 500 open division teams registered by 8 October 2010 unless the goal of 500 is reached earlier.

To find out more and sign up for this year's competition go to <http://www.uscyberpatriot.org/> and you will find additional links to the most current information. See especially: http://www.uscyberpatriot.org/CyberPatriot_AFA_Chapters.asp to find out how your chapter can make a big splash in the local community by supporting this remarkable program.

You may also contact us at info@uscyberpatriot.org if you have any questions about the competition. A "frequently asked questions (FAQ)" document is provided at http://www.uscyberpatriot.org/CyberPatriot_FAQ.asp. We hope to see every JROTC, CAP, and high school from every state registered. We need new "Cyber Defenders" in our industries and government agencies, and this is your opportunity to get into this exciting and important field.

Dunn Announces Field Recruiting Challenge for CyberPatriot

Mike Dunn, President/CEO of the Air Force Association, recently sent an e-mail letter to all Chapter Presidents announcing a Field Recruiting Challenge for *CyberPatriot*. He told them that the *CyberPatriot* high school cyber defense competition is moving forward, thanks to several Chapters who are already ramping up team recruitment efforts.

To stimulate even more Chapter *CyberPatriot* activity, I am pleased to announce we are implementing immediately an award program for the Chapters that recruit the most teams to the competition. Here's how it will work:

As of August 18, 2010, each time a Chapter recruits a team to competition, they are invited to send a "Recruitment Report" email to our *CyberPatriot* staff (info@uscyberpatriot.org). The email should contain the following:

- a. The phrase "Recruitment Report" in the subject line

- b. The name of the individual submitting the recruitment report and contact information
- c. The AFA Chapter number and name
- d. The name of the high school, CAP unit, or the JROTC unit that was recruited to the competition
- e. The name of the recruited team's coach

Once the team successfully registers, the Chapter will receive credit for the recruitment as follows:

- a. CAP squadrons: 1 point
- b. AFJROTC units: 1 point
- c. Army, Marine Corps, or Navy JROTC units: 2 points
- d. "Open Division" high school teams: 3 points

At the closing of the registration period (October 8th), points will be tallied for chapter recruitment efforts. Prizes will be awarded as follows:

- a. First Place Chapter: \$500 gift certificate to the AFA store
- b. Second Place Chapter: \$300 gift certificate to the AFA store
- c. Third Place Chapter: \$100 gift certificate to the AFA store.

Dunn told the Presidents that the *CyberPatriot* team is ready to answer their questions. Commissioner Bernie Skoch can be reached by telephone at 703-247-5836 or emailed at b.skoch@uscyberpatriot.org.

Educator Grants 2011

The Air Force Association believes that one of the most significant means to affect student learning is to fund grants to meet the unmet and unfunded educational needs of students. Each school year, the Association awards grants of up to \$250 to worthy projects that significantly influence student learning.

The Association will accept online grant applications from August 1 until November 10, 2010 at 4:00 PM Pacific Time. The grant process is competitive in nature. A committee comprised of outside experts in the field of aerospace education will review all qualified grant applications and make recommendations on funding. Based upon the funding available, the Association will choose to invest in projects that best serve our nation's students and support the mission of the Air Force Association. The Educator Grant program promotes aerospace education activities in classrooms from kindergarten through twelfth grades. The program encourages development of innovative aerospace activities within the prescribed curriculum. The application may be revised and edited until the final submission deadline at 4:00 PM Pacific Time on November 10, 2010.

AFA Field Education Support

As a part of the position requirement for Vice Chairman of the Aerospace Education Council, Jim Hannam pours over all chapter and state quarterly financial reports. He carefully reviews the vast amount of financial data to extract education expenditures.

As of August 11, 2010, Hannam has been able to obtain almost all of the first quarter data and about 50 percent of the second quarter data. Based on these figures, his

projections reflect that the field support amounts to about \$300,000 for the first half of 2010. The yearly estimate of field education funding is between \$500,000 and \$600,000. This is approximately 50 percent of the total AFA education expenditures and the Field's time and effort supporting Aerospace Education makes them critical/essential to AFA's over success.

Examples of additional Field sponsored initiatives/programs that support AFA Aerospace Education are:

- Field sponsored symposium's – San Antonio, Paul Revere, Langley, Utah, Wright-Patterson, Sijan, Eglin, and Hurlburt;
- AF education days, air show support, cooperation/support to air museums, congressional educational sessions, base educational support, State/Chapter scholarships, separate foundation support through local 501(c)(3)s;
- Local additional support to the TOY program, local support to Drill meets and Drill teams, CAP financial support, ROTC mentoring, STARBASE support, veterans education days, support to AAS/SW, local air academies and summer camps; and
- Space Camp, rocketry programs, additional Pitsenbarger Awards and presentations, AirPower presentations to Chambers of Commerce, Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary, etc.

Wilmer Creates Classes That Set Her Apart

A line of tiny origami coffins represents the lives of a group of corn worms, lovingly raised, observed and cared for by the students in Darcey Wilmer's sixth grade class at Palominas Elementary School in Hereford, Arizona. The origami creations also represent two awards Wilmer won for her work, particularly with the STEM subjects – science, technology, engineering and math.

After being named the Cochise Chapter Elementary School Teacher of the Year, she was selected as the Air Force Association Cochise Chapter Teacher of the Year. In competition with other chapter nominees within the state of Arizona, she was selected as the AFA State Teacher of the Year.

Wilmer received her Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education from Missouri Southwest State College. She followed with an Associates degree in bible history from Ozark Christian College.



Darcey Wilmer, Arizona State Teacher of the Year

Air Force Association Recognized For Achievement in Aerospace Education

The Air Force Association was selected to receive the 2010 Crown Circle Award in recognition of outstanding achievements in the field of aerospace education. The award was presented at the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) AirVenture *Teacher Day* on July 26 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Sandy Schlitt, Vice Chairman for Aerospace Education, accepted the AFA award from Ken Cook, President of the National Coalition for Aviation and Space Education.

The *Crown Circle Award* was established in 1979, recognizing performance and outstanding leadership in aerospace education. The award is one of the highest honors available in aerospace education.

Those seeking this honor must demonstrate involvement in and commitment to aerospace education as a local, national, or international leader in aerospace education. Their performance must exhibit high quality over an extended period of time. Induction may also be the result of exceptionally unique or extraordinarily outstanding achievement or contributions in aerospace education.

The National Coalition for Aviation and Space Education represents government, industry, and labor united to promote aviation education activities and resources, increase public understanding of aviation, and support educational initiatives at the local, state, and national levels.

AFA Awards Outstanding CAP, JROTC and ROTC Cadets

AFA announced the 2010 awards for outstanding cadets from Civil Air Patrol squadrons, ROTC detachments, and Junior ROTC high school units across the nation. Each organization selects their outstanding cadet of the year and presents the AFA award to that cadet. Cadets receive a medal, a ribbon and a certificate from AFA.

Sandy Schlitt, Vice Chairman of the Board for Aerospace Education, said that “Civil Air Patrol, ROTC and Junior ROTC are great organizations that help many young people develop important life skills, AFA is proud to team up with Civil Air Patrol squadrons, and ROTC and Junior ROTC units to recognize cadets that stand out for their hard work and enthusiasm.”

Mike Dunn, AFA President echoed Schlitt’s comments. “AFA is proud to support educational efforts in many ways, and Civil Air Patrol, ROTC and Junior ROTC provide a lot of great young people with unique learning opportunities. These awards are for cadets who have shown the outstanding focus and energy to earn the recommendation of their squadron commander.”



From left: Ken Cook and Sandy Schlitt

Drawing for ACE Materials at the Air & Space Conference

Susan Mallett with Civil Air Patrol Headquarters notified Sandy Schlitt, Vice Chairman for Aerospace Education, that a drawing would be held at the end of the delegate session during the Air and Space Conference in September. Aerospace Connections in Education (ACE) material packages will be given away to two lucky winners. The ACE Program was designed to integrate the aerospace theme in a cross-curricular manner in classrooms across America and includes three basic elements that address major issues for the schools of our nation: academics to meet future STEM workforce demands; character education to combat negative societal forces and prepare productive/ethical/responsible citizens; and physical fitness training to create citizens living a healthy and drug-free lifestyle.

The lucky winners can then go back to their community and find a classroom to which the program components could be given to conduct the program. To address America's need to promote character development and STEM career options at an early age, CAP developed an aerospace-themed program that excites and engages young people in preparing for the future. AFA chapters use this program as an avenue to provide STEM initiatives for their community youth in grades K-6.

Mallett said that the package would include ordering the teacher's students a set of ACE tee shirts. She related that all ACE tee shirts, for the last three years, have "Supported by the Air Force Association" on them.