

Bravo!

By Kim Connolly



Flying Toward the Future

Civil Air Patrolman Guides Teen Cadets

One of the more unique volunteer organizations in the area is the United State Air Force Auxiliary Civil Air Patrol. Youth cadets ages 12 to 18 participate in aerospace education, programs in teamwork and moral leadership, and operations such as disaster relief. Dave Duncan is the Deputy Commander of Cadets of the Monticello Composite Squadron, with the rank of Lt. Colonel. He joined the CAP as a cadet in 1988 and now guides the cadets as a Senior Member.

Cadets attend weekly meetings wearing Air Force uniforms or fatigues, depending on the activities, which include search and rescue techniques. Dave teaches pilot ground school to the cadets and provides orientation flights in the squadron's own plane. In September, he led the squadron's senior members and cadets in locating a downed airplane in Madison County.

Dave guides cadets through leadership development exercises and encourages them to advance through the CAP achievement and promotion program, progressing through military ranks with corresponding responsibilities. Parents of cadets credit him with helping their children develop maturity, responsibility, and self-discipline. Many cadets have gone on to full college scholarships.

"Dave has an unusual ability to gain the respect and confidence of young people at the same time he is pushing them to fully discover and develop their own leadership skills," says Jim Rhoads, Commander of the Monticello Composite Squadron.

Kim is the Director of Marketing and Communications at the United Way, Thomas Jefferson Area. To explore volunteer opportunities, visit www.BeAVolunteer.info.

