

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Louisiana Wing of Civil Air Patrol to Host International Cadets

BATON ROUGE, La. – From July 23 to August 2, Civil Air Patrol's (CAP) Louisiana Wing will host a group of young men and women who, along with their escorts, are participating in the International Air Cadet Exchange (IACE) program.

IACE is an annual exchange of visits by air-minded young men and women of the U.S., Canada, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, East Asia and the Pacific Rim with the objective of promoting international understanding, goodwill and fellowship among the youth of the world.

Louisiana Wing IACE Director, 1st Lt. Sue Yglesias said, "We are pleased to have six cadets and two guides representing Canada, United Kingdom and Australia visit our state." Eleven other states hosting cadets include California, Colorado, Florida, Maryland, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington and Wyoming.

The cadets visiting the United States will meet in Washington, D.C., for three days of sightseeing in the nation's capital before departing to the various host states.

The guests will travel around the state, staying with host families. They will visit many sights including Barksdale Air Force Base, Claiborne Bombing Range, Esler Air Field, Avery Island, Jungle Gardens, Bird City, a Konricta Rice Mill, the Breaux Bridge Atchafalaya Basin display, Blue Bayou Water Park, the Louisiana State Capitol Building, the New Orleans French Quarter, Legends Park, Preservation Hall and the Vieux Carre.

This year the countries participating in IACE include Australia, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Hong Kong, Israel, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States.

CAP's participation in the exchange began in 1947 with the arrangements for an exchange of cadets between CAP and the Air Cadet League of Canada. Since the first exchange of cadets during the summer of 1948, the program has continued to expand. Former presidents of the United States, members of Congress and the heads of many foreign countries have publicly commended IACE.

CAP sponsors U.S. participation by arranging housing accommodations and travel itineraries as well as educational, recreational and social activities for the international cadets while they are in the United States. The hosting organizations of the participating countries also perform these same services for the American cadets.

Visits to the U.S. and abroad are just over two weeks long and give the cadets an opportunity to visit many areas of their host countries.

Louisiana Wing has over 500 members representing 14 squadrons that are located in Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Bossier City, Gonzales, Hammond, Jennings, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Monroe, New Orleans, Patterson and Shreveport.

Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with 58,000 members nationwide. CAP, in its Air Force auxiliary role, performs 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and was credited by the AFRCC with saving 72 lives in fiscal year 2009. Its volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and counter-drug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to more than 23,000 young people currently participating in CAP cadet programs. CAP has been performing missions for America for 68 years.

For more information about CAP, visit www.gocivilairpatrol.com

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