



NEWS

CATSKILL MOUNTAIN GROUP
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Maj William Martin, Commander
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Catskill Mountain Group Supports Pine Bush Aviation Academy **10 July 2017**

Members of Catskill Mountain Group Civil Air Patrol provided a day of aviation and emergency services education for students of the Pine Bush Aviation Academy. Thirteen students and three educators from Pine Bush School District were treated to a day of training that demonstrated how Civil Air Patrol handles missions for customers such as the U.S. Air Force, FEMA, and other federal, state, and local agencies.

Activity director Maj William Martin briefed everyone on the purpose and missions of Civil Air Patrol, and how to plan a mission. Students then divided into groups. One group worked with 1st Lt Daryl Haberneck and pilot 1st Lt Joseph Zerilli to plan an orientation flight for one of their teachers, Mrs. Erin Toomey. The flight was made possible through the Civil Air Patrol Teacher Orientation Program. A second group performed a simulated search for an emergency locator transmitter (ELT) under the direction of ground team leader 1st Lt Michael Mazanec. Another group assisted communications unit leader 1st Lt Ezra Kuliszewski with coordinating with the aircraft and ground team. The final group, under the direction of Maj Martin, documented the activities as a Public Affairs Team and made a presentation of their photography skills and a simulated press release at the end of the day.



1st Lt Mazanec instructing students on the fine points of direction finding.



Students practice using radio systems to communicate with the airplane and direction finding team.

Catskill Mountain Group has supported the Pine Bush Aviation Academy since 2012. The month-long program is conducted every summer to provide students with an introduction to various facets of aviation, and emphasizes the importance of academic studies in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. As part of this program, Mrs. Toomey joined Civil Air Patrol as an Aerospace Education Member; this let her fly on the orientation flight, and also provides education resources and support from CAP National Headquarters for use in the classroom.



New AE Member Erin Toomey begins her orientation flight with pilot 1st Lt Joseph Zerilli.

Catskill Mountain Group encompasses all Civil Air Patrol units in Rockland, Orange, Ulster, Sullivan, and Delaware Counties of New York State. Civil Air Patrol, the longtime all-volunteer U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, is the newest member of the Air Force Total Force, which consists of regular Air Force, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve, along with Air Force retired military and civilian employees. CAP, in its Total Force role, operates a fleet of 550

aircraft and performs about 90 percent of U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and is credited with saving an average of 78 lives annually. Civil Air Patrol's 56,000 members nationwide also perform homeland security, disaster relief, and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state, and local agencies. Its members also play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to more than 24,000 young people currently participating in the CAP cadet program. Performing missions for America for the past 75 years, CAP received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2014 in honor of the heroic efforts of its World War II veterans. CAP also participates in Wreaths Across America, an initiative to remember, honor and teach about the sacrifices of U.S. military veterans.



Aerial image of Pine Bush High School by Erin Toomey.

Visit www.capvolunteernow.com or cap-ny035.org for more information.



Students on second direction finding mission homing in on the ELT.



Aviation Academy students and teachers enjoy a lunch break before resuming activities.