

OFFICE OF CIVILIAN DEFENSE  
Washington, D. C.

GM-70

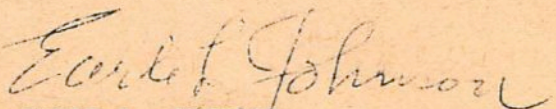
CIVIL AIR PATROL

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 22, 1943

Subject: Cooperation with Air Scouts

To: All Unit Commanders

1. Inquiries have been received from various Wings as proposed cooperation with Air Scout units now being organized by the Boy Scouts of America. The attitude of this headquarters is that such cooperation is highly desirable.
2. At the present time, the CAA and the U. S. Office of Education are promoting pre-flight courses in schools throughout the country in line with the Victory Program to prepare young people for their places in the war effort. Any school program, of course, is a stimulus to organization and training outside the classroom. Many schools have not yet started the pre-flight courses and volunteer aviation units are especially valuable in these areas.
3. Our own CAP Cadet program, being limited in membership, will provide opportunities for only a small fraction of the young people who want aviation training. It is confined, moreover, to the last two years of senior high school while there is a natural demand for pre-training at younger age levels which CAP is not equipped to reach.
4. Membership in the Boy Scouts is predominantly in the younger age levels. This organization is in a position to build a broad base of aviation interest which can be of great value to CAP and to the future of aviation. The experience of other nations and of our own has clearly demonstrated that the earlier the age a boy starts to learn about aviation, the higher his skill is likely to be as an airman.
5. The Boy Scouts are a Federally chartered youth agency with 542 Boy Scout Councils and thousands of local troops covering every section of the United States. They have developed a sequence of air training activities for Cubs (9 to 12); for Air Scout Candidates (12 and over); and for Air Scouts (15 and over). Scout Leaders will welcome CAP help in training the boys and will be glad to reciprocate by aiding in CAP training courses with which they are familiar from long experience.
6. It is understood that the CAP program makes heavy demands upon the time of local unit officers and that the CAP Cadet units, though conducted on a simple plan to minimize administrative work, are an added responsibility. Conditions will vary in different localities and cooperation with the Boy Scouts will be at the discretion of unit commanders. One thing that all units can do, however, is to accept Boy Scout leaders and teachers of pre-flight courses in the schools to CAP membership so they can check out in the CAP training directives and convey this practical knowledge to their pupils. CAP is and will remain an adult organization. But we must think of our responsibilities to the adults of tomorrow.



EARLE L. JOHNSON  
National Commander