

## Civil Air Patrol to host "fly day" and open house.

By Kevin Jarchow

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*The Civil Air Patrol will be hosting a "fly day" and open house to showcase the organizations three mandated missions: Cadet Programs, Aerospace Education and Emergency Services.*

The West Michigan Group 703, Civil Air Patrol will be conducting an Open House and 'Fly Day' Event dubbed "OPERATION:GO!", on Saturday June 20th, 2009 at the Paul C. Miller Airport in Sparta, MI. The event will be open to the public from 9am to 3pm. During the event CAP will showcase the organization's three chartered missions: Cadet Programs, Aerospace Education and Emergency Services; which will highlight CAP's Search and Rescue Capabilities.

During the open house CAP will provide demonstrations on model rocketry, as well as ground-based search and rescue techniques. CAP will be providing glider and airplane orientation rides to qualified Civil Air Patrol cadets. "The Civil Air Patrol is called 'One of the best kept secrets in the United States'. We're looking to change that by hosting events that increase public awareness of the organization," commented Kevin Jarchow, 2d Lt, CAP, Public Affairs Officer for the Grand Rapids Senior Squadron.

Cadet Programs are open to 'tweens' and teens from the age of 12 to 18. Senior Membership is also available to all adults over the age of 18.

For directions and updated information, visit the event website at: <http://opgo.miwgcap.com>  
Sparta Airport is located at 9100 Vinton Ave, Sparta, MI 49345

Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with 56,000 members nationwide. CAP 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 91 lives in fiscal year 2008. 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 the nearly 22,000 young people currently participating in CAP cadet programs. CAP has been performing missions for America for more than 67 years. For more information on CAP, please visit [www.gocivilairpatrol.com](http://www.gocivilairpatrol.com)

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The Civil Air Patrol's Grand Rapids Senior Squadron is custodian of a Cessna 172T with a 180hp conversion engine. The squadron is tasked with search and rescue operations and supports various other emergency management agencies.

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