



OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER  
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
CIVIL AIR PATROL  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY  
MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, ALABAMA 36112-6332

9 April 2020

Dear Civil Air Patrol Volunteers and Staff –

Just recently I received a message from a Civil Air Patrol member. The gist of the message was this:

*“Has HQ decided how to handle large activities like encampments, national activities? ... Are large summer activities of all types going to be cancelled? Encampments and summer activities include large groups of people (in the hundreds) in communal living (sleeping, showering, eating, training) conditions.”*

Why, thank you for asking! First, let me point everyone to our website’s page that lists all the information we have pushed out related to COVID-19: [gocivilairpatrol.com/covid-19-information-cena](https://gocivilairpatrol.com/covid-19-information-cena). Many typical questions will be answered by the information found on this webpage, and we add and update information regularly

Let me address this specific question directly. On Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, my command team and I met with Cadet Programs leadership to address summertime National Cadet Special Activities (NCSAs) and nationally sponsored flight academies. I approved Cadet Programs’ plan for handling these major events in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Some 50 days before each event a team of people, including the activity director, will evaluate several factors to determine a “proceed, cancel, or reschedule” recommendation they will bring to me. This approach will allow us to make the decision and appropriate notifications 45 days prior to these large events.

We are making the criteria we will use for decisions about national events available to wing and region commanders for their consideration. I trust their judgment in continuing or canceling events based on the criteria I have provided in earlier memoranda. These memoranda are also found on the webpage I mentioned above.

Let me mention one final item found on the COVID-19 information webpage, the waiver I approved yesterday to the grooming standards defined in CAPR 39-1. We are impacted in many ways by the COVID-19 restrictions placed on us at the local, state, and national levels. One of these impacts many of us face is not being able to get to a barbershop or salon. With that in mind, I have approved modifications to our grooming standards while COVID-19 restrictions are in place. What you see on the webpage is the second version of the waiver. In the first version, I didn’t provide adequate details for accommodations of our female members. I apologize for not

getting it right the first time.

In closing, you will find the most current CAP information regarding COVID-19 on our dedicated webpage—it is easy to find; there are three links to the COVID-19 Information Center from the [gocivilairpatrol.com](http://gocivilairpatrol.com) homepage. Please be healthy, stay safe, and thanks for all that you do for CAP.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark E. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

MARK E. SMITH  
Major General, CAP