

# NEWS

HEADQUARTERS SOUTH CENTRAL GROUP  
NEW YORK WING CIVIL AIR PATROL  
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## **Vestal, Afton Youths Experience Flying a Cessna Aircraft In Civil Air Patrol's Cadet Orientation Flight Program**

BINGHAMTON, NY -- Three area young people experienced the thrill of aviation, through orientation flights with the Civil Air Patrol at the Greater Binghamton Airport Feb. 19. The cadets flew a combined total of three hours in CAP's sophisticated Cessna 182R.

"It was awesome!" said Cadet Evan Hofmann, a 12-year-old student at Vestal Middle School. "I've always wanted to fly, and today, for the first time, I got to handle the controls and see what flying is all about."

The flights in the single-engine Cessna aircraft introduced the cadets to the science that makes flight possible. They learned about navigation, weather, aircraft instruments, flight maneuvers, and more.

The cadets' experience began by helping pre-flight their aircraft. Working with their pilot, they taxied the aircraft to Greater Binghamton's runway 34, gave it full throttle and took off, climbing to 3000 feet. While aloft, it was the cadets who were handling the controls, during the non-critical stages of the flight.

"You really have to pay attention when you are at the controls," explained Cadet Conner Erckert, a 15-year-old student at Afton Central High School, "but once you get past your initial nervousness, it's fantastic."

Cadet Nolan Erckert, a 13-year-old student at Afton Central School, agreed. "It was an experience that I will not forget. I can't wait for the next time to fly!"

"I've been flying cadets for many years, and it's always exciting for me just to see the look on their faces as they experience the beauty of flight," said CAP Mission Pilot Lt. Col. Lawrence Brinker. Colonel Brinker, a retired US Air Force pilot, volunteered his

time, while the Civil Air Patrol provided the aircraft and fuel, at no cost to the cadets or the pilot.

The Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program is open to youth aged 12 through 18. Additionally, there are volunteer opportunities for adults, pilots and non-pilots alike. For more information contact Broome-Tioga Composite Squadron Commander, Lt. Colonel Rich Bowman, CAP, at 607-773-4584 or visit [GoCivilAirPatrol.com](http://GoCivilAirPatrol.com).

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From left: Cadets Connor Erckert, Nolan Erckert and Evan Hofmann pose in front of the Cessna 182R aircraft in which they took their first Civil Air Patrol flights at Greater Binghamton Airport.