

After Action Report Aviation Camps of the Carolinas Inc.



Goal: to Teach, Expose, and Inspire.

Students grades 4 through 12 participated in the Charlotte-Monroe Executive Airport single-day Aviation Career Camp.

https://youtu.be/3F0shJJ88_w

Aviation Camps of the Carolinas selects an airport in the local and national region, then sets up a base of operations where students come to the airport to learn about the different aviation careers and supporting careers. Pilots and flying airplanes are only the tip of the iceberg of all the interesting professions available to young people.

There is a severe shortage of people in all aviation career specialties. Pilots, Air Traffic Controllers, Maintenance Inspectors, Certified Mechanics, and Engineers (including Aerospace, NASA, Design, and Robotics) are all considered excellent careers with bright futures.

Students in the community register for the Aviation Camp. Grades 4 through 8 are hosted on one day and grades 9 through 12 are hosted on the following day. Regardless of age, Boy Scouts planning to qualify for their Aviation Merit Badge must register under Boy Scouts which is only given the day of the 9th through 12th grade age group. This alerts the organizers as to supply requirements. The registration fee is the same. Aviation Camps of the Carolinas supports and provides every requirement of the Aviation Merit Badge in one day.

Participants at the latest Aviation Camp included: Dr. Yvonne Cagle, NASA space traveled astronaut, scientist, medical doctor, and inventor. Navy Captain David McKinney, Lockheed Martin, Skunk Works lead engineer retired (but he can't talk about that). A CMPD Aviation Unit helicopter. Hunter, a student and expert, who masterfully provided a tour of the C-46 Tinker Belle, a WWII refurbished airplane. Mike Dockery's Charlotte-Monroe Air Center Maintenance Hangar. Brett Benson, Civil Air Patrol. Brandon Atkinson and Jessica Martin from Aerowood Aviation. Luis Durani, UTC Aerospace, whose presentation included robotics. All the firefighters of Monroe City Station 4, thanks to Captain Fowler. In charge of the program and director of the nonprofit Aviation Camp was Brenda Robinson, who is historically the first African American female Navy pilot, and also a retired American Airlines pilot.



The Aviation Camp is run on an action-packed schedule. Students are constantly on the move and some presentations are overlapping. The Camp starts out in a classroom and kicks off with a pep rally from PositiveOne. As the name implies, they instill a positive attitude of team spirit and fun to start off the day. Then an astronaut begins speaking and the students are spellbound for an hour. They are all full of questions about space travel, how space affects the body, and all the cool things that are about to happen in the future. Students have a code of conduct they must agree to, then they are off and running to their first meeting.

Greeting us at the C-46 was Hunter, a student their age. We met Neil at the Charlotte-Monroe Air Center, where he told the kids about aviation maintenance.

The CMPD helicopter landed while we were finishing up with the Maintenance department. The helicopter team explained how the helicopter works, all of the police gear on the helicopter, and what kind of exciting uses and flights the aviation unit is involved in, including the K9 unit. After this, the students were allowed to sit in the cockpit, where they learned about the different instrumentations and how helicopters work.

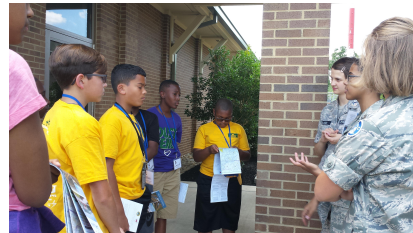
Returning to the classroom, the students were given lunch, courtesy of Ryan Schalles, Regional Customer Experience Manager of Wendy's, which was our sponsor.

In short order, we were off to visit the firefighters and their facilities plus the trucks and emergency equipment, as well as learning how they function. Our base of operations, provided by the firefighters' station, was state of the art.

UTC Aerospace, which is also a close tenant to the airport, gave a wonderful brief to the students. It included emphasis on robotics and computer building, which again created enthusiasm with the students.

An engineer from Lockheed Martin who is also a retired Navy captain and pilot brought the coolest gear and an oscilloscope. The students were truly fascinated by, and fully comprehended, the presentation on sine waves, sound waves, and microwaves.

On the go again, students headed back to the airport for a meeting with the Civil Air Patrol, who discussed the aerodynamics of flight, They introduced us to their Cadets, who also briefed the students. The Civil Air Patrol helped check the box that required a pre-flight for the Boy Scouts studying for their Aviation merit badge.



A flight instructor from the flight school Aerowood explained the school's flying program and gave the students a tour of the training airplanes.

For the Boy Scouts, we returned to the classroom and completed the final training portions and question. It's a very in-depth journey into aviation procedures, logic, and instrumentation. Boy Scouts should be cautioned that reading the Aviation Merit Badge Manual is required for a satisfactory completion. Students should not expect the instructor to read the manual to them. It is best for me, the instructor, to correct misconceptions and clear up difficult definitions. The standards of the Boy Scout organization clearly state that this badge is earned, not given. Our final requirement had us build the FPG-9 airplane and test fly it in a distance contest while testing out the aerodynamics of airfoil positions. Building this airplane is normally available to all students that day, but because of time constraints, four Boy Scouts were able to complete the task before camp ended at 4:30 PM.

Students were also offered information about the EAA Young Eagles Program. EAA, an aviation program for young people, encourages students to learn more about flying and aviation with other students, including actual flying. At the end of the class, when I was

certain of true interest, I handed out brochures about Young Eagles to the students who asked specifically. I only had a few brochures, but seven students were very interested

and were able to take one home. In the follow-up surveys, the Civil Air Patrol got high marks and interest, as they normally do. I am very happy when students make that connection.

More surveys need to come in before we can fully assess the students' overall feelings about the camp. But on the question of rating the camp from 1 to 5, with 5 being the best, an early respondent wrote in a 6.

Media are starting to notice the aviation camp. We had not one, but two television stations videotape and then televise our program. Fox News 46 and PBS Charlotte were in attendance. The video is available online now from Fox News 46. Its URL is so long that it would be best to simply Google search "Fox News 46, Aviation Camp." It aired June 28th.

Parents arrived to meet very tired enthusiastic students.

Goals, achieved in order of importance were:

1. Students realize that, when the mystery is removed, more careers become a real option.
2. STEM is not about what the smartest kids have access to but what the most motivated students can achieve. And for good reason; it's fun.
3. A roomful of successful people, who were also teenagers once, talking about subjects and careers, face to face, with great one-on-one interaction.
4. Interest in aviation is encouraged. Career paths are outlined.

Income and Expenses:

A detailed financial report may be requested separately. As director and president of the Aviation Camps of the Carolinas, I am still its biggest sponsor. Hosting 36 students costs \$4100, and this price does NOT include incidentals such as tanks of gas, printing requirements, gifts for kids, and planning. Donations and registrations plus lunch provided raised \$2700. PayPal deducted 3.9% from that, leaving \$2600. As you can see, sponsorships are still greatly needed. Aviation Camps of the Carolinas encourages you to participate each quarter, to make this the coolest teenage program in the region.

In closing, the students had a fun full day. The presenters were wonderful and worked well with the students. The facilities for the classroom were the best anywhere. The camp was truly a success and we look forward to making this a go-to opportunity for all area young people. A special thanks goes out to Peter Cevallos, Airport Director, and the City of Monroe's Aviation Board, who allowed us access to the airport facilities.



Here is a photo of a young man whose artistic talents caught us all by surprise with this ten-minute drawing of The Tinker Belle.