



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

8 June 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL REGION & WING COMMANDERS

SUBJECT: National Character Day

1. National Character Day is a new initiative that showcases exciting opportunities in the Cadet Program's character element. It is envisioned as an annual, one-day event, conducted each September. During National Character Day, cadets learn about the Air Force Academy's model for character development, hear a character-affirming message from a distinguished guest speaker, and challenge themselves during an engaging, hands-on activity (e.g., rock walling, indoor skydiving, low ropes) that expands their comfort zone while emphasizing sobriety, trust, and courage.

3. This program is intended as a wing-level activity, and pursues two main goals:
 - (A) To motivate cadets to take issues of character and honor seriously, and to recommit themselves to the drug-free ethic; and,
 - (B) To further integrate the Drug Demand Reduction program into CAP's overall Cadet Program, after having merged the two communities last spring.

4. A curriculum guide found at capmembers.com/characterday provides recipe-like instructions on how to conduct a successful Character Day. Further, DDR funds are available to offset local expenses. Please see the curriculum guide for details about eligible expenses and the reimbursement process. Activity directors will please direct their questions to Margaret Probst, DDR Program Assistant at mprobst@capnhq.gov or 877-227-9142 x412.

5. In short, National Character Day is a great opportunity for us to build a new enthusiasm for character, honor, and the drug-free ethic. I ask all commanders and the cadet community at large to give this new initiative their full support.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy S. Courter".

AMY S. COURTER
Major General, CAP
National Commander