



Freedom Flyer

Celebrate Freedom Foundation

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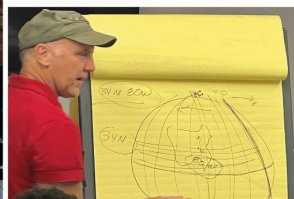
Another First

By: Jack Lovelady, President

Celebrate Freedom Foundation and Richland County (SC) School District One, have joined forces to establish the first in the nation, K-12 (Kindergarten through twelfth grade), Aerospace Magnet School Program.

What makes this program so unique is that we have schools participating at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

Current and future jobs require a knowledge of STEM. Among our program goals is to reinforce the importance of the STEM subjects while connecting the classroom learning to jobs and career fields. All of our instruction is delivered by licensed subject matter experts with a major emphasis on aviation technology. The graduating students from the Aerospace Magnet School Program will expand the STEM literate workforce and directly benefit many sponsors while fostering economics growth.



CELEBRATE
FREEDOM
FOUNDATION



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Another First

CONTINUED



Dylan Walters (standing on the left) and **Tony Rodriguez** (standing on the right)
Instructing students

Dylan Walters, a USMC veteran and FAA licensed Unmanned Aerial System (Drone) Pilot, has joined the CFF ranks as a full time Aerospace Science Instructor.

Dylan is assisted by another USMC veteran, Tony Rodriguez, who is presenting classroom instruction focusing on aerospace composite material testing, aircraft structures and inspecting standards, turbine jet engines, navigation, meteorology and the Physics of Flight.

Tony served in combat as a USMC, CH-46 helicopter crew chief. He brings a wealth of technical expertise to the classroom.

Many school districts across the nation are taking great interest in the first ever K-12 Aerospace Magnet Program for potential implementation in their communities.

Follow us on Facebook for the latest updates.





Chairman's Corner

Paul Werts

It has been an exciting year for the Celebrate Freedom Foundation (CFF) organization. We became partners in the aerospace educational center with the Richland One School District. This is a super big endeavor for the organization! Richland One has been a leader in aerospace education and was the recipient of a NASA funded program to construct an aerospace lab called the Challenger Learning Center in 1993. The center is an aerospace lab for students to engage in many aspects of aerospace science. In 2023, Richland One strengthened the aerospace education program by creating an Aerospace Magnet Program that enables students K-12 to experience hands on applications in all aspects of aviation. The program exposes students to flight controls both man and unmanned aircraft, aircraft maintenance systems, aerospace and airport engineering, air traffic control systems, and thermal dynamics in atmosphere weather and aircraft operating systems.

The Aerospace Magnet Program has been significantly strengthened given CFF has a hangar located on the Columbia Metropolitan Airport housing helicopters and unmanned aircraft which are used as teaching aids to students seeking a future in aerospace. One of the great attributes about this partnership between Richland One and the CFF organization is it provides our veterans who are the instructors, the ability to teach not only the flight freedoms we enjoy in this great county, but, also respect and obedience to fellow students. This will, therefore, instill positive morals and values in all. At CFF we call our organization “Veterans Inspiring the Next Generation”. One key mission statement at CFF is that our programs give students self-confidence because many feel they are deprived of opportunities to reach for stars in aerospace science. If you would like to be part of this culture helping tomorrow’s workforce, give us a call at CFF.

The timing of this newsletter comes during a period when we just recently honored our Veterans and their families on a day called Veterans Day. This National Observance Day recognizes their sacrifice whereby we have been granted so many freedoms. If it was not for the dedication of our Veterans at CFF, this organization would not exist. CFF is not a “run through the mill social club”, but a place of purpose whereby Veterans give their unwavering time and skills for others to succeed. Thanks to you we have grown as a unit tremendously over the past twenty -four years.

As calendar year 2023 comes to a close, we thank our corporate and government agencies for their financial assistance. Your sponsorship allows CFF the ability to take aircraft and other aerospace training aids to schools not only in South Carolina but to other neighboring states. As chairman of CFF and being involved in aviation for over forty years, I have never witnessed more excitement and opportunities available for tomorrow’s youth. The unmanned aircraft industry now has unlimited possibilities, and the electric flying car George Jetson flew in the cartoons is now in production. What will 2024 bring to CFF, help us navigate?





President's Press

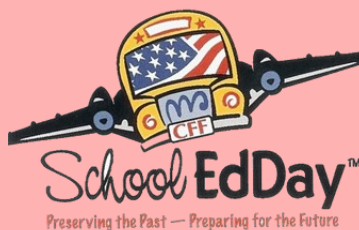
Jack Lovelady

Twenty-four years ago, CFF began its incorporated business relationship with the many military veterans, school, students, sponsors, and communities that it supports. We were three years old in 1999, the year that we incorporated as an IRS non-profit public charity, and we were dedicated then, as we are now, to our Mission Statement and Vision of “Veterans Inspiring the Next Generation”.

These past two decades have seen extraordinary changes, from the speed and reach of information access to the ways in which we interact by fingertip on our smart handheld devices with the people and companies with whom we do business. We search, find, access, and select our products and services differently today. At CFF we strive to provide the most helpful rapid and personalized customer experience possible.

Certainly, over the years, CFF has expanded our business offerings, capabilities, and technologies to meet and exceed our customers' expectations. Yet, our mission and motivations have not changed.

We remain loyally committed to those we serve.



Merry
Christmas
&
Happy
New Year

Creating Future Aviators

By: Dylan Walters - Aerospace Instructor

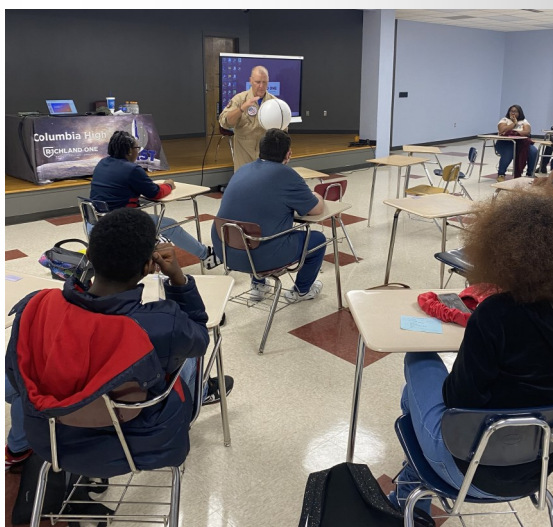
Celebrate Freedom Foundation (CFF) has partnered with Richland School District One's BLAST Magnet program with the intention to help mentor and inform those students on lucrative careers in aviation.

When most think of careers in aviation, the first thing that comes to mind is to become a pilot, which may not be a viable option for many to pursue. CFF, however, is challenging that perception by presenting each magnet student with alternate paths to enter the aviation field. Whether that be in aircraft maintenance, design, public safety, or drone piloting, CFF is determined to ensure all magnet students are presented and informed on these opportunities.

These periods of instruction are given to kindergarten through twelfth grade magnet students at four different campuses, three of which are on school grounds and the final location is at the CFF hangar. Each class period has presenters that are qualified aircraft mechanics, drone pilots and rotary wing pilots with the objective of showing the students the diverse career options that aviation has to offer.

The purpose of this partnership is to give these students the building blocks and the proper guidance for them to be able to determine which of the two separate aviation tracks would best suit them. All students who are a part of the magnet program begin by learning the basics of aviation with the course leading to the culmination of their decision to choose which specific track they would like to complete. The two tracks CFF will be instructing are aviation maintenance, with the goal of having students be able to earn certifications in air frame maintenance, and commercial drone piloting, with the intent of having students be able to complete the FAA part 107 exam and become certified drone operators.

The staff here at CFF is extremely grateful and excited to be a part of this revolutionary process to help nurture and produce the future of American aviation.



STEM Education Team Report

Make Sure Schools in Your County Get the Support They Deserve, So Your Students Can Receive a Visit They'll Never Forget.

Celebrate Freedom Foundation's exciting STEM Education Outreach Program visits dozens of schools across the southeastern US every year with more than 20,000 students participating annually.

CFF's STEM Education Outreach Program emphasizes the necessity of STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) in K–12 grades. It connects the classroom with real world jobs and career fields. The program's mission is to help build a workforce that can compete globally for jobs in the future and to ensure America's technological advantage in a global environment. STEM subjects provide skills and competencies greatly needed here in the Southeast, across the nation, and globally.

How can you help the CFF STEM Education Outreach Program? We are always looking for volunteers to assist in these visits, and, if you have a school that you want us to visit, let us know. You can reach out to **Lori Wicker**, our Executive Vice President and Director of STEM Education, by email at stemed@gocff.org or a phone call at **(803) 882-8812**.



CFF STEM Education Outreach Program Visits

Twenty-four down and one more remaining to close the 2023 year.

Our STEM team has been very busy traveling to primarily Title 1 schools located in GA, NC, and across SC.

Next year we are expanding our STEM Education Outreach Program into the state of Virginia. The Jan/Feb 2024 issue of the "Freedom Flyer" will cover this initiative in detail

We are extremely grateful to our sponsors and partners for making the STEM Education Outreach Program school visits possible.

Carolina Panthers – Official CFF NFL Team!

Missy Robbins, Business Manager

We are proud to recognize the Carolina Panthers Football Team as CFF's Official NFL Team. This year the Carolina Panthers became a sponsor for our STEM Education Outreach Program. Their generosity assists CFF with providing our top-notch, innovative STEM Education Outreach Program to Title 1 schools at no cost to the schools.

On October 26, 1993, the Carolina Panthers, #OneCarolina, became the 29th team for the NFL. They played their first official season in 1995 at Memorial Stadium in Clemson, SC and have been playing at the "Bank of America Stadium" in Charlotte, NC from 1996 to present. Since then, they have made two Superbowl appearances and have won several division championships during the play offs season. The Carolina Panthers have a very strong fan base, resulting in the majority of home games being sold out.

The Carolina Panthers are a strong supporter of the Carolinas with many of their charitable contributions supporting education, sports, human services, and scholarships. They also provide grants every year to assist schools with obtaining football equipment.

To get tickets for their next game please go to <https://www.panthers.com/tickets/single>



Special Thanks to Our Sponsors and Partners

The Celebrate Freedom Foundation would like to thank all of our sponsors and partners who have given various types of donations in order to ensure the education of STEM and to honor our military - past, present, and future.



To Contact the Celebrate Freedom Foundation:

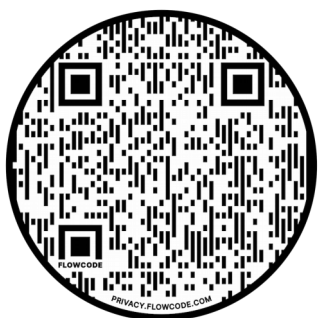
Celebrate Freedom Foundation
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Phone: (803) 822-8812
Email: CFFSupport@gocff.org
website: www.GoCFF.org

Educating the Public, Promoting Patriotism, and Honoring the Military - Past, Present, and Future

“Veterans Inspiring the Next Generation”

Celebrate Freedom would like to give a special thanks to all of the volunteers who have given their time and effort to the renovation of the CFF Headquarters and to our Board of Directors for their continued pursuit of progress. Without the countless hours of help, CFF wouldn't be where we are today.
Thank you!




CFF - QR Code




Any questions or suggestions about the newsletter, please contact us at the phone number above or by email - webmaster@gocff.org

Donation or Membership Mail-In Slip

If you would like to make a donation or become a member of CFF you can fill in your information below, cut it out and mail it to CFF at the address listed above or visit our website and use the “Take Action” tab in the upper right hand of the website page .



Mail-in Donation and/or Membership Slip



Please Print

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____ Phone #: _____

Email: _____ Prior Service?: _____ Branch _____

Spouse Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Phone #: _____ Anniversary Date: _____

College Student: \$25.00 x _____ Annual: \$50.00 x _____ Lifetime: \$250.00 x _____ Donation: \$ _____