



Freedom Flyer

Celebrate Freedom Foundation

**May/June
2023**

Volume 5, Issue 1

CFF STEM Program Highlight



The Foundations STEM Education Outreach Program was a major highlight of the Pathway 2 Possibilities South Carolina expo in Myrtle Beach, SC.

CFF focused on the growing aviation and aerospace industry with it's exhibit of our AH-1 Cobra helicopter and a Northrup Grumman Hunter drone. The systems on board both of these aircraft exposed students to a wide range of career fields which were presented by our experienced subject matter experts.

Over 10,000 students attended the Pathway 2 Possibilities South Carolina in a two day period. P2PSC is an interactive, hands-on career expo designed to help 8th graders link their passions to a paycheck. Professionals from 19 career pathways, aligned with the national and state departments of education, engage the students with hands-on activities in their various fields. They also shared what life is like in their jobs and the training and education that is required.

A special thanks to the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission for their sponsorship of CFF at this major educational event.

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CFF STEM Team at the P2PSC Expo



CFF Sponsor Branding on Display





CFF's Aerospace Summer Camp 2023 For Ages 12-14

Our Mission

To produce the nations' premier STEM Education Program to students in order to promote academic and career awareness in multiple career clusters!

Celebrate Freedom Foundation is an IRS 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation located at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport in West Columbia, SC. CFF has earned a twenty-four-year success record of producing and delivering STEM Education programs to students at schools across the South Eastern United States.

**This camp will fill up quickly, register now, cut off dates are:

June class - June 7, 2023

July class - July 5, 2023

Contact Us

Celebrate Freedom Foundation
2533 B Airport Boulevard
West Columbia, SC 29170
(803) 822-8812
CFFsupport@gocff.org
www.GoCFF.org



Learn More About the Aerospace Industry
from Those Who Work It!
Daily Fun Activities
While you Learn all about STEM!

Important Information:

First Cycle:

June 12-16, 2023 - \$500.00

Second Cycle:

July 10-14, 2023 - \$500.00

Ages 12-14

Start time is 9:00 am

End Time is 3:30 pm



Day 1 – All About Aviation/Tour of the
Airport

Day 2 – All About Drones

Day 3 – All about Aerospace Occupations
in SC/Tour of SC Aeronautics

Day 4 – More About Aviation

Day 5 – All About Helicopters. Our AH-1
Cobra Helicopter (Maggie) Flying
Demonstration



Tribute to Vernie Nance

Command Sergeant Major

U.S. Army, Retired

As many of you may already know that one of our Celebrate Freedom Foundation comrades awaits us in Fiddlers Green. Vernie departed this realm of existence on October 15, 2022, after a lengthy illness. Vernie was born in Dillion County SC. Our prays and support go out to his wife, son, and daughter.

As we are deeply saddened by his departure, we give tribute to his life and legacy as a member of the Celebrate Freedom Foundation. He served in Viet Nam as a helicopter mechanic and crew chief, in the U.S. Army and later returned to Vietnam as an aircraft maintenance contractor.



Vernie was an early contributor to the success of the restoration of our helicopters, “Maggie”, and “Annie” as well as other helicopters in our fleet. The success of our mobile STEM program can equally be attributed to Vernie’s steadfast determination and knowledge to work with and through people to accomplish the task at hand. He mentored many of our team members with his ability to communicate the mission’s intent. He was the type of guy that if he liked you, you had a brother that would always unequivocally be there for you.

For mere words alone cannot truly depict his contribution to our success as a Foundation, but we are much the better for being granted to work, laugh, and talk about our family’s Vernie.

Fiddler’s Green is an after-life where there is perpetual mirth

Volunteer Highlight

Keith “Sully” Sullivan

Keith joined the ranks of volunteers here at CFF in 2022 as a member of our STEM Education Outreach Program team. He is an Air Force Academy Graduate and retiree from the Air Force as a Lieutenant Colonel. “Sully” flew helicopters in combat and holds an FAA ATP helicopter license. He has also taken on the responsibility of managing the Foundations Special Projects which includes both short and long range educational initiatives. Keith brings tremendous skills and leadership to CFF.



Welcome aboard LTC Sullivan

Keith with the STEM Education Director Lori Wicker at a school event



Chairman's Corner

Paul Werts

Do you every pounder the meaning of your name or why a product or organization was named for its purpose and reason? My parents named me Paul, a name carried by five previous generations, I named my son Paul as well. Take the name - Celebrate Freedom Foundation (CFF). When the organization was chartered in 1999, it was formed by a group of military veterans who had life changing experiences and truly understood the meaning of self-sacrifice. Those experiences gave them invaluable understanding of the meaning of democracy and how democracy provides everyday freedoms to exist. To enlighten others of freedoms we take for granted, a group of volunteers formed an organization called the Celebrate Freedom Foundation (CFF). Nearly twenty-five years later, the organization continues to enshrine the values of freedom and liberties by giving back to others an underlying gift that cannot be purchased, it's called your self-esteem. One area CFF is heavily involved in is helping one's self-esteem is in the area of STEM (Science Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education by exposing youth to real world applications of aerospace.

At CFF a traveling team of volunteers bring a mobile STEM Education Outreach Program to schools exposing students to aerospace and the many aspects of aviation associated by the freedom of flight. The goal is to increase education awareness and encourage students to study and dream that they too may be part of an aerospace industrial cluster which has become an economic global powerhouse of financial prosperity located throughout the southeast of the United States. What better way can one enhance self-esteem than being free to fly like a bird. But freedom must be earned by listening, following rules, and respecting other opinions and CFF instructors embody those principals in the STEM classroom. CFF has received many testimonials from parents and students that their self-confidence has improved from CFF volunteers' message on enhancing education freedoms by using aerospace tools.

The United States honors and celebrates a day of remembrance of those military individuals who have made the ultimate sacrifice to the meaning of freedom. Each year Memorial Day is set aside on the calendar to honor those individuals. At the Celebrate Freedom Foundation, the organization's underlying core value is to educate youth from an aerospace perspective by enhancing his or her self-esteem in a discipline of inherited freedom given by the sacrifices of others. To all those who have served in the armed forces, CFF will never forget your indebted service to our country and for those who financially support CFF, I thank you for your willingness to stand up for FREEDOM!



JROTC and Instructors participating in a CFF STEM Education Event



President's Press

Jack Lovelady

Setting New Records

Each year leading up to Covid, CFF presented our unique STEM Education Outreach Program to an average of 10,000 students and we traveled to twenty-five schools across SC, NC, GA and TN.

Over 27,500 students will participate in our program this year at fifty locations. This represents a 275% growth of our educational offering among students and doubling of the participating schools and communities. It reflects the high demand for the Foundations valuable training aids and subject matter presenters, who are mostly all military veterans. At CFF, we are “Veterans Inspiring the Next Generation” Lori Wicker, the Foundations STEM Education Director and her entire team are commended for their hard work which has resulted in the impressive numbers.



Lori Wicker (center) and the CFF STEM Team



CFF received an important grant from CSX for our “Operation Fall-in”, military veteran program. A substantial portion of the CSX workforce are military veterans. CSX is a major freight railroad operating across the eastern U.S. and into Canada. They maintain 21,000 route miles of track and operate a fleet of 3,500 locomotives and over 51,000 freight cars. We greatly appreciate the support of CSX.



Bankair has joined in support of the Foundations military veteran and STEM Education Programs. Bankair has been in the airline business for over thirty-five years. In 1972 they were licensed by the federal government to transport bank checks and in 1975 as a commuter passenger airline. Contact Bankair for your charter jet needs. Thank you Johnny Dickerson, co-founder and a Vietnam veteran for your valuable support.

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 10,000 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, Subject Matter Expert Vernie Nance, instructing students on the operation of a turbine engine.



A very excited group of CFF STEM school students.



Another group of CFF STEM students who better understand the importance of these subjects to begin meaningful careers



Students learning about drones and the many career field that utilize them

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors

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



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Libby Hagins

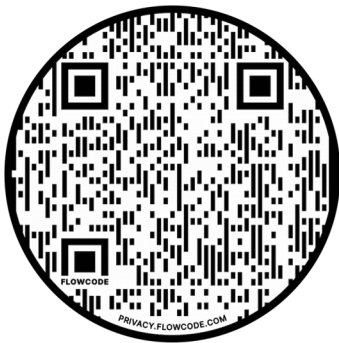


To Contact the Celebrate Freedom Foundation:

Celebrate Freedom Foundation
2533 B Airport Blvd.
West Columbia, SC 29170

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



CFF - QR Code

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!





Any questions or suggestions about the newsletter, please contact Tom Robbins 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 PayPal.

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: \$ _____