

# North Dakota Wing Emblems and Charters

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Produced by:  
1st Lt Christain Smith  
NDWG/HO asst.  
[history@ndwg.cap.gov](mailto:history@ndwg.cap.gov)



# Prologue

## North Dakota Wing Heraldry Project

*(Concept inspired by and adapted with permission from a project of the Tennessee Wing History Office.)*

Across the years, the squadrons and (sometimes) groups of North Dakota Wing have chosen colors, symbols, and designs that reflect their missions, hometowns, and the identities of the members who wore them. Some of these emblems are preserved in official records—charters, annual reports, and correspondence. Others survive only in memory: printed once on a T-shirt, stitched to a well-worn flight suit, or taped into a scrapbook that hasn't been opened in decades.

As North Dakota Wing continues to change and grow, preserving this visual heritage becomes both important and time-sensitive. Early unit emblems and charter details are at risk of being lost as units reorganize, redesign, deactivate, or merge. In response, this project seeks to assemble the most complete and accurate record of North Dakota Wing's emblems, patches, and charter histories that we can create.

This effort is intentionally collaborative.

No single historian can capture the full story of our Wing. This history is designed as a community-driven project, inviting input from current and former members, families, historians, collectors, and anyone with knowledge of North Dakota Wing's visual legacy. Whether you have an original squadron patch, a redesign draft, a photograph from a training exercise, or simply remember the story behind a symbol, your contribution matters. Every fragment—no matter how small—helps reconstruct the lineage of our units and secures their place in CAP history.

Contributors are encouraged to share:

- Drawings or design drafts of unit emblems, past or present
- Photographs showing patches on uniforms, aircraft, banners, or printed materials
- Images or scans of actual patches, including variations or one-off designs
- Documentation such as charters, redesign requests, approvals, or historical notes
- Oral histories or written recollections explaining why an emblem was chosen or how it was used

All submissions will be reviewed, organized, and credited appropriately so that the record we build is both accurate and inclusive.

This prologue marks the start of a shared commitment: to safeguard the heritage of North Dakota Wing through the symbols that represent its people and missions. By gathering what we remember—and uncovering what has been forgotten—we honor the past while strengthening the foundation for future generations of North Dakota Wing.

Together, we can ensure that North Dakota Wing's emblems and charters are not lost to time, but remembered, documented, and respected for the legacy they represent.

Please contact the North Dakota Wing Historian ([history@ndwg.cap.gov](mailto:history@ndwg.cap.gov)) with any additions, corrections, or supporting materials for this project.





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# Charter Listing and Status

NCR-ND-001	Wing Headquarters	Bismarck, ND <sup>1</sup>	ACTIVE
NCR-ND-005	Grand Forks Composite Squadron	Grand Forks, ND	ACTIVE
NCR-ND-021	Magic City Composite Squadron	Minot, ND	ACTIVE
NCR-ND-030	Bismarck Composite Squadron	Bismarck, ND	ACTIVE
NCR-ND-031	James Valley Composite Squadron	Jamestown, ND	ACTIVE
NCR-ND-043 <sup>2</sup>	Southwest Cadet Squadron	Scranton, ND	DORMANT
NCR-ND-044	Roughrider Composite Squadron	Dickinson, ND	ACTIVE
NCR-ND-046	Red River Senior Squadron	Fargo, ND	ACTIVE
NCR-ND-047 <sup>3</sup>	Williston Composite Squadron	Williston, ND	ACTIVE
NCR-ND-048	Lake Composite Squadron	Hazen, ND	DORMANT
NCR-ND-049	Central Dakota Composite Squadron	Carrington, ND	DORMANT
NCR-ND-051 <sup>4</sup>	Black Sheep Squadron	Garrison, ND	DORMANT
NCR-ND-119	119th ANG Cadet Squadron	Fargo, ND	ACTIVE
UNKOWN	Watford City Squadron	Watford, ND	DORMANT
UNKOWN	Bowman Squadron	Bowman, ND	DORMANT
UNKOWN	Hettinger Squadron	Hettinger, ND	DORMANT
UNKOWN	New Town Squadron	New Town, ND	DORMANT
UNKOWN	Devils Lake Squadron	Devils Lake, ND	DORMANT
UNKOWN	Langdon Squadron	Langdon, ND	DORMANT
UNKOWN	Cooperstown Squadron	Cooperstown, ND	DORMANT
UNKOWN	Enderlin Squadron	Enderlin, ND	DORMANT
UNKOWN	Wheatland Squadron	Wheatland, ND	DORMANT

<sup>1</sup> Wing Headquarters was originally located in Fargo, ND.

<sup>2</sup> Southwest Cadet Squadron was deactivated 1 January 1991 and merged with Roughrider Composite Squadron for the betterment of the cadets.

<sup>3</sup> Williston Composite Squadron was originally a senior squadron deactivated in 2004 and reactivated in 2024.

<sup>4</sup> Black Sheep Squadron was deactivated due to loss of membership. The members of this squadron were put into the Magic City and Bismarck Composite Squadrons.





Currently  
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# NCR-ND-001 Emblems

*North Dakota Wing Headquarters - Bismarck, ND*



Authorized  
March 14th 2022

PREVIOUS  
EMBLEMS



**Arrowhead of Fleur-De-Lis:** Dexter, in the position of honor, the arrowhead, derived from the North Dakota Coat of Arms, symbolizes the "Sioux State" and pays homage to the Native American Dakota tribe of the Sioux Nation from which the state derives its name. The embedded fleur-de-lis alludes to La Vérendrye, a North American French explorer who was the first known non-native to visit the state's territory.

**Bend of Stars:** The three stars, also derived from the North Dakota Coat of Arms, denote the trinity of government: legislative, executive, and judicial. Each star in the bend is given a heraldic value of thirteen, signifying the original thirteen colonies of the United States and having a cumulative value indicating that North Dakota was the thirty-ninth state admitted to the Union. The stars also allude to the territory's history under three foreign flags (France, Spain, and England). Three stars are also borne upon the coat of arms of Meriwether Lewis of the Lewis and Clark expedition and on the coat of arms of Lord Selkirk, head of the first permanent settlement in this state.

**Civil Air Patrol Charge:** Sinister, in the position of support, the Civil Air Patrol Logo depicts the three-bladed propeller upon a civil defense embedded triangle in a circle alluding to the history of CAP and its overall purpose to serve communities, states, and the nation. At the same time, each propeller blade represents the three CAP-derived mission areas encompassing 36 U.S.C. 5403 CAP purpose: aerospace education, cadet programs, and emergency services.





**Coloration:** The shield is composed of five colors, and all (sans green) are matched to the Civil Air Patrol colors per CAPR 900-2. The colors meanings on the emblem are:

- GULES, ARGENT, and AZURE (RED, WHITE, and BLUE) - These colors together represent patriotism and support of the United States of America and reflect the colors of the flags of both the United States and North Dakota.
- AZURE and OR (BLUE and YELLOW) - The colors of the United States Air Force appear in the design representing our relationship with and support of the branch with which we are affiliated as an auxiliary. The blue represents "the sky," the primary theater of operations, while yellow represents "the sun" and the excellence required of personnel. AZURE and OR also reflect the territory's history as part of the Louisiana purchase.
- OR and VERT (YELLOW and GREEN) - These colors represent the tremendous agricultural state of North Dakota and have particular reference to ripening grain and abundant grazing lands.



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# NCR-ND-005 Emblems

*Grand Forks Composite Squadron - Grand Forks, ND*



**Authorized  
August 20th 2025**



**Mosquito:** The mosquito symbolizes the unit's resilience, vigilance, and readiness to serve the community. As a constant presence in the Red River Valley, the mosquito reflects the squadron's unwavering commitment, always prepared to respond to emergencies, just as mosquitoes persist regardless of efforts to deter them. Its aerial agility mirrors CAP's aviation expertise, while its watchful eyes represent the squadron's constant situational awareness. Additionally, mosquitoes thrive in flood-prone areas, directly tying them to the Red River floods, where the squadron has historically played a critical role in disaster relief and reconnaissance. Despite its small size, the mosquito is tenacious and ever-present, embodying the Grand Forks Composite Squadron's determination, adaptability, and enduring service to North Dakota.

**Red River:** The red, wavy line represents the Red River of the North, a defining feature of the region that has played a major role in both the history of Grand Forks and the mission of the squadron. The Red River is notorious for its flooding, with the 1997 Red River Flood being one of the most catastrophic disasters in the city's history, causing widespread destruction and mass evacuations. The Grand Forks Composite Squadron has been deeply involved in disaster response efforts, providing aerial reconnaissance, damage assessment, and emergency coordination during flood events. The river's presence on the patch highlights the squadron's commitment to serving the community in times of crisis, showcasing CAP's role in monitoring floodwaters, supporting first responders, and assisting with relief operations. The Red River also represents the unpredictable challenges faced by the squadron, reinforcing its need for constant vigilance and preparedness. Just as the river flows through the heart of Grand Forks, service and duty flow through the core of the squadron's mission's.



**Light Blue Sky:** The light blue background on the patch represents the vast skies over North Dakota, symbolizing the squadron's deep connection to aviation and aerial operations. As a Civil Air Patrol unit, the squadron conducts search and rescue, reconnaissance, and aerospace education, all of which rely on the endless expanse of the sky as their operational domain. The light blue clear of clouds also conveys a sense of readiness and clarity, reflecting the squadron's role in disaster response and community service, where maintaining a clear perspective and swift action is crucial. Additionally, it serves as a reminder of Grand Forks' strong aviation heritage, home to Grand Forks Air Force Base and the University of North Dakota's prestigious aviation program where many members come from, reinforcing the squadron's mission to train future aviators and serve the community from the skies.

**Golden Rays with Blue:** Symbolize the breadth of Civil Air Patrol's mission, extending beyond the skies to the ground in service of the community. The dark blue border represents the strength, unity, and dedication of CAP members nationwide, emphasizing that Grand Forks Composite Squadron is part of a larger mission of service, readiness, and response across the country. The golden rays cutting across the patch mirror those found on the North Dakota state flag, symbolizing hope, guidance, and a commitment to serving others. These rays remind us that CAP is not just an aerial force but also a grounded one, providing disaster relief, emergency services, and community support whenever needed. Whether flying in the sky, aiding on the ground, or mentoring the next generation of leaders, the squadron embodies the guiding light of service and the enduring hope that defines both CAP and the people of North Dakota.

**Overall Design:** The patch holds historical significance as the squadron's first-ever designed emblem, marking a milestone in its identity and unity. As a symbol of esprit de corps, it represents the squadron's heritage, mission, and regional connection, creating a sense of belonging among its members. In military tradition, unit patches are deeply respected, serving as visual representations of history, pride, and service. These symbols are rarely changed, as they carry the legacy of those who have served before and reinforce continuity within the organization. The Grand Forks Composite Squadron's patch stands as a testament to its origins, embodying its commitment to vigilance, excellence, and unwavering dedication to service.

**Motto:** *"Vigilantia in Aquilone"* ("Vigilance in the North") reflects the squadron's unwavering dedication to readiness and service. It signifies the squadron's constant watchfulness in carrying out emergency response, aerospace education, and leadership development, especially in the demanding northern environment. The mosquito on the patch symbolizes resilience and determination, mirroring the squadron's commitment to serving its community and upholding the Civil Air Patrol's mission. Through vigilance and excellence, the squadron stands as a steadfast guardian of the skies and the region it serves.

**Coloration:** The Grand Forks Composite Squadron disc contains six colors: Red, Blue, Light Blue, Yellow, White, and Brown.

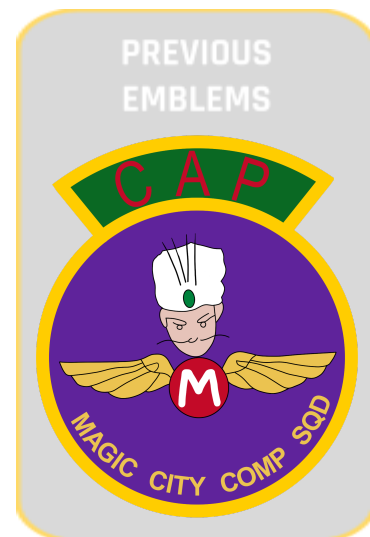
- Pimento Red - Patriotism
- Ultramarine Blue - Sincerity
- Bluebird (Lighter Blue) - Constancy
- Air Force Yellow - Excellence
- White - Wisdom
- Spice Brown - Endurance



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# NCR-ND-021 Emblems

*Magic City Composite Squadron - Minot, ND*



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Needs  
Update

# NCR-ND-030 Emblem

*Bismarck Composite Squadron - Bismarck, ND*



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Needs  
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## NCR-ND-031 Emblem

*James Valley Composite Squadron - Jamestown, ND*



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**Dormant  
Charter**

## **NCR-ND-043 Emblem**

*Southwest Cadet Squadron - Scranton, ND*

**No Emblem Found**

NO HISTORY AVAILABLE, IF YOU CAN HELP E-MAIL [HISTORY@NDWG.CAP.GOV](mailto:HISTORY@NDWG.CAP.GOV)



Needs  
Update

# NCR-ND-044 Emblem

*Roughrider Composite Squadron - Dickinson, ND*



PREVIOUS  
EMBLEMS



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No Unit  
Emblem

## NCR-ND-046 Emblem

*Red River Senior Squadron - Fargo, ND*

**No Emblem Found**

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# NCR-ND-047 Emblem

*Williston Composite Squadron - Williston, ND*



**Authorized  
October 18th 2025**

**Lewis and Clark:** Williston is on the Missouri River which Captains Merriweather Lewis and William Clark traveled on the Corp of Discovery from 1804-1806. There also is a historic site on the south bank of the river, across from where Williston is now, where they camped on their travel upriver.

**Oil Drilling Rig (Derrick):** Williston is the center of the Bakken Oilfield which covers western North Dakota, eastern Montana and southeast Saskatchewan Canada.

**Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers:** These two rivers represent the Area of Responsibility of the Williston Composite Squadron. This consists of the Missouri River to the west at Culbertson, Montana to Van Hook Arm at New Town, North Dakota on Lake Sakakawea to the east. The Yellowstone River represents the area to the south at the Sidney, Montana area.

- Yellow Sky (Air Force Yellow): The color of the summer sunrise and sunsets.
- Golden Hills (Golden Orange): The color of the grain fields and grasslands in late summer.
- Orange Foreground (Orange): The color of some of the volcanic scoria rock that is plentiful in the Williston area.
- Blue Border and Blue Symbols (Old Glory): Honors Civil Air Patrol and US Air Force.
- Green Scrolls (Emerald): The color of the fields and grasslands in the spring and early summer.
- Squadron Motto: Oculi Ex Alto ("Eyes From Above"). Honors current and future squadron aircrews.

**Dormant  
Charter**

## **NCR-ND-048 Emblem**

*Lake Composite Squadron - Hazen, ND*



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**Dormant  
Charter**

## **NCR-ND-049 Emblem**

*Central Dakota Composite Squadron- Carrington, ND*

**No Emblem Found**

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**Dormant  
Charter**

## **NCR-ND-051 Emblem**

*Black Sheep Squadron - Garrison, ND*

**No Emblem Found**

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# NCR-ND-119 Emblems

119th ANG Cadet Squadron - Fargo, ND



Authorized  
June 1st 2023



**Fleur-de-lis Compass Arrow:** A fleur-de-lis topped compass arrow is pointing to the top of the disc. The compass arrow is pointing to the top of the disc, representing it pointing to the North; the 119th ANG Cadet Squadron is in the Northern Plains and this element recognizes the pride that the people of this area take in living in the North. The compass arrow is topped with the fleur-de-lis which can also be found on the North Dakota Wing shield recognizing the 119th ANG Cadet Squadron as part of the North Dakota Wing.

**CAP Roundel:** The Civil Air Patrol's Roundel is pictured on the emblem symbolizes that the Civil Air Patrol's Core Values are the foundation of the 119th ANG Cadet Squadron upon which all other aspects of the unit are built; The Roundel also pays tribute to Civil Air Patrol's history and acknowledges that the 119th ANG Cadet Squadron adds to that history daily.

**The 3 Flying Deltas:** The three flying deltas symbolize the 3 missions of Civil Air Patrol: Aerospace Education, Emergency Services, and Cadet Programs. The "tails" of deltas converge at the bottom of the disc, indicating that though the 3 missions are separate and distinct, they are connected and support each other to make one Civil Air Patrol.



**Coloration:** The 119th ANG Cadet Squadron's Disc contains 6 colors: Scarlet Red, Ultramarine Blue, Air Force Yellow, Silver-Gray, Black, and White.

- Scarlet Red – Sentiment: This color is a sentiment that pays homage to the original unit emblem that used this as the main color for over 25 years.
- Ultramarine Blue – Devotion: This color represents the honor and pride that our members have in being a part of Civil Air Patrol.
- Air Force Yellow – Excellence: This color represents the unit always moving ahead and leading the way.
- Silver-Gray – Retrospection: This color pays homage to the color of the aircraft that was displayed on the unit's previous emblem.
- Black – Determination: This color represents the unit's determination to strive for excellence and innovation.
- White – Wisdom: This color represents the unit's experience with and knowledge of the Cadet Programs. The compass arrow, roundel and deltas are all outlined in silver-gray ("fimbriated argent") to avoid violating the rule of tincture. Motto: The emblem contains a scroll at the top with the 119th ANG Cadet Squadron's motto, "Happy Hooligans". The motto pays homage to the unit's namesake, 119th Wing, North Dakota Air National Guard, whose nickname is "The Happy Hooligans". The "Happy Hooligans" can also be found on the unit's charter, below the official name, "119th ANG Cadet Squadron".

