



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Patriots Point Flight Academy To Host “AviCom 2023” Aboard USS Yorktown
South Carolina high school aviation and aerospace competition

MOUNT PLEASANT, S.C. – The Patriots Point Flight Academy will host the inaugural AviCom two-day competition and teacher professional development program on board the aircraft carrier USS Yorktown. In collaboration with the South Carolina Aviation High School Alliance, AviCom is a statewide competition for high school students participating in aviation and aerospace education programs. 10 teams are expected to participate in the event scheduled for Tuesday, January 31, and Wednesday, February 1, 2023.

The first-of-its-kind competition will include competing in simulated flight missions using Patriots Point’s state-of-the-art flight simulators. The event will test the students on aircraft operation with students having to use their critical thinking, communication, team work and math skills in time restricted and problem plagued flight operations.

While students participate in the competition, their leaders will enjoy professional development offered by the Patriots Point’s Education Department. The workshop will include hands-on teacher activities, lesson plan development and analysis of primary documents recently added to the museum’s collection of WWII naval aviation exhibits. This backstage pass to the museum’s archives will include a certificate of completion towards renewal credits. The experience gained by the students and teachers will be valuable as the Alliance develops a new aviation curriculum it hopes to provide all South Carolina students with an interest in the aviation industry.

Students and teachers participating in the competition will experience Patriot Point’s Operation Overnight Program, where guests sleep aboard the USS Yorktown in the same bunks as sailors in World War II. Students will compete for a grand prize of \$1,000 flight training scholarship. Teams will also vie for first, second, and third place prizes totaling over \$1,500 in gift cards and trophies.

“The Flight Academy’s state-of-the-art technology and historical scenery makes for a truly unique educational experience. We’re honored to provide a place where students engage their

PATRIOTS POINT NAVAL & MARITIME MUSEUM



skills to the highest of their ability at a competitive level.” – Keith Grybowski, Education Director

The South Carolina Aeronautics Commission and Greenville Technical Charter High School are also partners in the competition. For more information, visit <https://www.scaviationhs.org/events/avicom-2023>.

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About Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum

Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum, on the Charleston Harbor, is the #1 attraction in Mount Pleasant, S.C., and is home to a fleet of National Historic Landmark ships, and the only Vietnam Support Base Camp in the U.S. Patriots Point is also headquarters to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society and the agency’s official Medal of Honor Museum. Visit www.patriotspoint.org for more details, or find us at @patriots_point on Twitter and Instagram, and Facebook at www.facebook.com/PatriotsPoint.org.

About the USS Yorktown Foundation

The USS Yorktown Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to raising funds to provide scholarships for educational programs at Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum, as well as supporting new exhibits, symposiums and special programs. The Foundation’s mission is “to cultivate a unique learning environment that connects generations by celebrating America’s history and its heroes, inspiring freedom, patriotism, leadership and service.” For more information, please visit www.USSYorktownFoundation.org or call 843.881.5925.