

**HEADQUARTERS  
TAHOE TRUCKEE COMPOSITE SQUADRON  
NV027  
CIVIL AIR PATROL**



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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY

Kevin Smith  
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P.O. BOX 2167 • TRUCKEE, CA 96160

Dear Kevin,

On behalf of the Tahoe Truckee Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol, I would like to thank you and your airport staff for all your help with our "Mission to Mars" summer aviation/aerospace camp at the airport. During the week of June 27 - July 1, 2011, 11 lucky children ages 10-11 went on a trip of a lifetime. They went to Mars! We discussed how to get there (we found out you cannot walk there), made rockets and spaceships, made landing crafts and built a small city once we arrived on Mars. The children flew with the Young Eagles to see if there was any intelligent life on this new planet (they said there was some). On the way home they searched for a lost airplane at the airport and made some Martian ice cream.

The children and their parents really found out during this time what a great resource the airport is. Some of the children came from as far away as Nevada City. Our Civil Air Patrol instructors also enjoyed the time at the airport and look forward to doing this again. We met and exceeded our objectives during this day camp as we conducted over 30 hands on activities. The airport setting really made a great learning environment. The old "Todd Aero" building made an ideal "Aeronautical Learning Center".

Kevin, have you considered using the old "Todd Aero" building as a learning center? I understand the office side is a little too large for an airplane repair facility and the hangar is a little too small for one also. They both make an ideal "Research Center" I am sure a local school or college might be interested in working with you to make this happen. I know the Tahoe Truckee Civil Air Patrol would be interested in working with you to make it happen. I would be happy to assist with this endeavor if you would like.

With an Aeronautical Learning Center at the Truckee Airport you would be able to invite school children to come visit and do scientific and math experiments in an exciting environment. Great learning would take place. The parents of these children would also see the great resources you have at the airport. As you know one of our Civil Air Patrol missions is "Aerospace Education". We would be happy to assist you in this area.

During our "Mission to Mars" day camp, many pictures were taken. They can be reviewed at the following link: <https://picasaweb.google.com/truckeecap/MissionToMars>

Finally, I want to again say thank you for a great time working with the airport and staff. Your slogan; "Connected, More than a Runway" is more true than ever.

Semper Vigilans  
(always vigilant)

*Ken Aronson*

Ken Aronson Capt. CAP  
TTCS Commander