



# RAY AVIATION SCHOLARSHIP



INFORMATION  
FOR PARENTS  
& SCHOLARS



## About the Program

The Ray Aviation Scholarship is funded by the Ray Foundation, managed by EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association), and administered by your local EAA chapter. Through the generous support of the Ray Foundation, EAA will provide up to \$12,000 to deserving youths for their flight training expenses, totaling nearly \$2.25 million in scholarships annually.

Through the Ray Aviation Scholarship, EAA and the Ray Foundation strive to make a positive impact on young people. James Ray firmly believed in the life skills of discipline, character, and confidence taught throughout the flight training journey. This program strives to teach those skills, as well as help outstanding young people earn their pilot certificates.

Your local EAA chapter will play a critical role in the success of this program, as chapters are responsible for identifying applicants for this scholarship, as well as mentoring and supporting the scholarship recipient throughout their flight training journey.

Should your child be awarded, they will be expected to complete flight training in 12 months, submit periodic progress reports, and commit to chapter volunteer service. This will require a significant amount of time dedicated to the program by your child.

### About EAA

EAA embodies The Spirit of Aviation® through the world's most engaged community of aviation enthusiasts. EAA's 300,000-plus members and 900 local chapters enjoy the fun and camaraderie of sharing their passion for flying, building, and restoring recreational aircraft. For more information on EAA and its programs, visit [EAA.org](http://EAA.org). To learn more about the Ray Aviation Scholarship, visit [EAA.org/RayScholarship](http://EAA.org/RayScholarship).



# Scholar Eligibility & Expectations

To be eligible for the Ray Aviation Scholarship program, applicants must:

- Be age 16-19 for powered flight training, or at least age 15 for glider training.
- Possess a student pilot certificate.\*
- Possess an FAA or Transport Canada medical certificate (private pilot students only).\*\*
- Be able to begin flight training within 60 days of the scholarship start date (the last day of the month in which the scholar was approved by EAA).

\*Aspiring scholars can apply for their student pilot certificate by meeting with their local certified flight instructor (CFI). Chat with your local EAA chapter to meet a CFI near you.

\*\*FAA medical can be obtained by accessing FAA MedXpress and contacting an aviation medical examiner (AME) near you. Visit [MedXpress.FAA.gov/MedXpress](https://www.faa.gov/MedXpress) to access FAA MedXpress and find an AME of your choosing at [FAA.gov/Pilots/AMELocator](https://www.faa.gov/Pilots/AMELocator). (Please note: the prescription of ADD/ADHD medication will impact a scholar's ability to get their FAA medical certificate. For more information, visit [EAA.org/RayScholarship](https://www.eaa.org/RayScholarship))

Earning a Ray Aviation Scholarship comes with a high level of responsibility, especially considering that this is a once-in-a-lifetime flight training opportunity. Due to the significance of the program, selected scholars must comply with the following:

- Complete two or more hours of chapter volunteer service per month, such as:
  - Young Eagles rally volunteering.
  - Pancake breakfast/fly-in volunteering.
  - Chapter aircraft build project support.
  - Chapter gathering participation.
- Submit regular progress reports on flight training and chapter volunteer service.
- Reach flight training milestones, as outlined by EAA's training timeline.
  - Complete first solo within three months.
  - Complete written exam within six months.
  - Pass checkride within 12 months.



## How to Apply

If you think your child is ready to take on the challenge of earning their pilot certificate, reach out to your local chapter's scholarship coordinator. The coordinator will schedule a short meeting with the potential scholar, their parents, and maybe even the CFI to lay out expectations. Following this meeting, the coordinator will work with the applicant to submit their application, which will include an application checklist and access to the online application via a program called WizeHive.

Scholarship applications will be judged on the following criteria:

- Participation in the local EAA chapter and other local aviation groups (Civil Air Patrol, Women in Aviation, etc.).
- Engagement in EAA youth programs such as Young Eagles and the EAA Air Academy.
- Participation in the Young Eagles Flight Plan and the Sporty's online Learn to Fly Course.
- Any prior ground school or flight training experience.
- A proven passion for aviation through a personal commitment to earning a pilot certificate.

## Applicant Checklist

Applicants should have the following information on hand when they sit down to submit their Ray Aviation Scholarship application.

- EAA number (if applicable).
- The date they plan to begin flight training (Must be within 60 days of the scholarship start date, i.e. the last day of the month the scholar is approved by EAA).
- How they plan to stay engaged with the chapter and fulfill volunteer service hours.
- Pilot certification desired (glider, sport, or private).
- Digital copy of their FAA or Transport Canada medical certificate (private pilot applicants only).
- Digital copy of their student pilot certificate.
- Information regarding the flight training location they will utilize if accepted (name, type of aircraft, website, etc.).
- Where they plan to complete ground school, or digital copy of their written exam score.
- Contingency plan, should training cost more than the amount of money awarded.
- Digital copy of most recent page in logbook (if applicable).
- Total amount of other flight training awards received from other groups (chapter, CAP, etc).
- Email of individual who will be writing their letter of recommendation (teacher, CFI, or chapter member).
- In their own words, a 150-250 word explanation of why they should be selected for the Ray Aviation Scholarship.

## About Flight Training

According to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), there are almost 850,000 pilots in the United States as of 2024 (only 0.25 percent of the population). By taking part in the Ray Aviation Scholarship, your child will be working to join this small yet close-knit community. As expected, this will take a level of dedication similar to mastering a musical instrument or athletic ability.

It is recommended that students schedule at least three flight lessons per week. These lessons will last anywhere from 2-3 hours, on average. Roughly 90 minutes of that lesson will occur in the aircraft, with the remaining time spent briefing and debriefing the flight.

Becoming a pilot will teach your child discipline and increases knowledge in a wide variety of areas such as meteorology, aerodynamics, mechanics, and mathematics. You will be amazed at the number of career opportunities that aviation can open up for your child. Additionally, your child will be exposed to an entirely new world and see things from a perspective that few are able to enjoy. Most importantly, becoming a pilot will be a fun and rewarding process!

## Supporting Materials from EAA

To help keep scholars on track and recognize them for their achievements, EAA will award the following items throughout the scholar's flight training progression:

### Milestone Rewards

- Ray Aviation Scholarship Hat – Given to student at beginning of flight training.
- Ray Aviation Scholarship First Solo T-Shirt – Given to student to wear on the day of their first solo. Shirt includes flight description blank lines and a dotted line for the CFI to fill out and cut.
- Ray Aviation Scholarship Polo Shirt – Given to student upon completion of training.
- Ray Aviation Scholarship Pilot Pin – Given to student upon completion of training.

### Scholar Resources

- Flight Training Tips
- Program Handbook for Scholars







# RAY AVIATION SCHOLARSHIP



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[EAA.org/RayScholarship](http://EAA.org/RayScholarship)

## Contact Information

EAA Chapter:

Coordinator Name:

Phone Number:

Email Address: