



Frequently Asked Questions

“How does our chapter become eligible to participate in the Ray Aviation Scholarship?”

All EAA chapters and divisional chapters in the United States and Canada are eligible to participate. The chapter application period is annually open from November 1 through January 31. Applications are reviewed in February, with chapters awarded by the end of that month.

“As a student pilot, how do I apply for the Ray Aviation Scholarship?”

You will need to join a local EAA chapter that is qualified to participate in the Ray Aviation Scholarship. Visit EAA.org/FindAChapter to find a chapter near you. Ray Scholarship recipients must be 16-19 years old to apply if seeking a Private or Sport Pilot certificate, or 15-19 years old if seeking a Glider Pilot certificate.

“A potential scholar has already soloed. Are they still eligible?”

Yes! Students who have already soloed are still eligible to receive the Ray Aviation Scholarship. However, the post-solo installment of funds will be excluded from their scholarship. The rest of the funding installments will still be disbursed.

“How does EAA’s Youth Protection Policy impact the scholarship?”

Ray Aviation Scholarship coordinators are required to be current on their Youth Protection Policy training and associated background check. Visit EAA.org/YouthProtection to complete or renew this policy.

“Can an EAA chapter support more than one scholar per year?”

If a chapter is eligible for the matching Ray Aviation Scholarship, then the chapter can apply for up to two matching scholarships per year. The chapter will provide 25% of the scholarship funds, and the Ray Foundation will match by providing the remaining 75% of the scholarship.

“Is the scholar allowed to choose their flight school / flying club / CFI?”

Yes! The decision on where to receive flight training is up to the scholar. Chapters may provide advice and guidance on finding the best flight school, flying club, or CFI. The Ray Foundation, EAA, or the EAA chapter does not dictate which flight school, flying club, or CFI the scholar has to use.

“Does our scholar have to train at the chapter’s home airport?”

Nope! Your scholar may train at any airport within a reasonable commuting distance from your chapter’s home. Remember that the scholar must still be able to fulfill their chapter volunteering requirement.

“How will scholarship funds be disbursed?”

Scholarship funds will be disbursed on a three-installment basis: the initial installment (40 percent), post-solo installment (40 percent), and post-written exam installment (20 percent). Installments will be fulfilled upon completion of required paperwork and progress reports.

“What can the funds be used for?”

Funds can be used for any costs directly associated with flight training, such as aircraft rental, CFI fees, aircraft fuel and oil, flying club dues, written exam and checkride fees, and non-owner aircraft insurance.

“Who will receive the scholarship funds when the installments are disbursed?”

The chapter will receive each installment via ACH transmittal or check. The chapter is encouraged to pay the invoices from the flight school, flying club, CFI, etc., rather than giving funds directly to the scholar.

“When do scholarship funds begin covering our scholar’s flight training?”

Scholarship funds may cover any flight training expenses incurred by your scholar since the date they were approved by EAA—in other words, the date the Scholarship Coordinator was notified via email that their scholar was approved by EAA. Note that scholarship funds cannot be sent until both the flight training waiver and the grant agreement for your scholar have been signed and submitted to EAA.

“What if there are additional funds remaining once the scholar has completed flight training?”

Chapters may allocate up to \$1,500 for the scholar’s future flying expenditures. Qualified expenditures include acquiring additional ratings, endorsements, certificates, or additional aircraft rental for exercising their pilot certificate. Funds remaining beyond that \$1,500 must be returned to EAA by the chapter.

“What happens to the money if a scholar drops out of flight training?”

All funds not spent on the scholar’s flight training must be returned to EAA. The returned funds will go back into the Ray Scholarship budget to support future scholarships.

“If our scholar uses up their scholarship funds prior to completing flight training, is the chapter required to cover the excess funding?”

No. The chapter can voluntarily provide funds to help the scholar complete training, but the chapter is not required to contribute additional funding. When applying, scholars are asked how they would pay for flight training if it ended up costing more than the scholarship.

“Are the scholarship funds tax-exempt, or will the chapter and/or scholar have to pay taxes on them?”

Certain conditions must be satisfied for this scholarship to be tax-free. Rules may vary from state to state. Please consult with a tax professional to determine whether you must report all or any part of this award as taxable income.

“What happens if our chapter does not award its scholarship to a recipient this year?”

Any unused scholarships will be returned to the general Ray Aviation Scholarship fund at EAA to support future scholarships. Chapters are not penalized for not using the scholarship they received. However, chapters cannot carry their unused scholarship to the next year. The chapter must apply for a new scholarship in the next year.

“Can our chapter apply for a new Ray Aviation Scholarship even if our previous year’s scholar is still in training?”

Yes! Chapters with an in-progress scholar can still apply for a new Ray Aviation Scholarship during the annual chapter application period (November 1 – January 31).