

# **James C. Ray Foundation Flight Training Scholarship**

## **2023 Applicant Expectations**

### **1-13-23 Edition**

The James C. Ray Foundation provides funding for flight training scholarships, which Wings Over the Rockies (WOTR) distributes across Colorado. Scholarships are available to applicants ages fifteen through eighteen who seek Private Pilot Certification in gliders or single engine airplanes. This document provides important dates, contacts, and qualifications for applicants.

### **To Apply**

Applications will close February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Read this document before applying. Visit this link and fill out the application form. [James C. Ray Foundation Scholarship | Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum \(wingsmuseum.org\)](https://www.wingsmuseum.org/scholarship) Read all instructions at the top of the form.

### **Scholarships Available**

#### **Private Pilot Glider Scholarship**

- Up to \$7,200
- Ages fifteen through eighteen (Age as of February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023)
- Completion time: 8 months
- Limited number available due to glider instructor shortage.
- Glider clubs are limited to certain airports. Commute must be considered.

#### **Private Pilot Airplane Scholarship**

- Up to \$12,000
- Ages sixteen through eighteen (Age as of February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023)
- Completion time: 8 months
- FAA Class 3 Medical Certificate required (can be done after applying)

#### **Stipulations:**

- Those who have already begun Private Pilot training are welcome to apply. However, the award amount will be reduced accordingly. i.e. An applicant who has already completed half their training should expect half the maximum award amount.
- The full award amount is never guaranteed. If a scholarship awardee does not meet expectations, funding can be stopped at any time.
- Wings Over the Rockies is not responsible for paying anything over the scholarship amount. Awardees should track their spending to ensure they do not incur a balance with a flight training provider which exceeds the scholarship amount.
- The scholarship ends when the applicant earns their Private Pilot Certification. Charges on the date of a successful Private Pilot Check Ride will be WOTR's last payments.
- Either glider or airplane training will be funded, not both. An awardee cannot use leftover funds to begin training in the other aircraft category.

- Applicants must be Colorado residents, and flight training must be completed at a Colorado business. If an awardee leaves state, scholarship funds will not be accessible.
- Not all flight training students will be able to complete their Private Pilot Certification through scholarship funds alone. Set aside additional funding as a precaution.
- Aircraft rental rates greatly impact the longevity of scholarship funds. Scholarship awardees should seek aircraft under \$145/hr.
- Frequent flying is critical to cost savings. Awardees must fly a minimum of two days per week (weather permitting). Plan for six to eight hours of weekly commitment, not including personal study.
- Ground studies are a critical to achieving Private Pilot Certification. The workload is equivalent to adding an additional class to a semester.
- If not certified by the completion date, remaining funding will be reabsorbed by the scholarship program. Awardees must appeal for extensions, which are not guaranteed.
- WOTR has a zero-tolerance policy for unprofessional conduct. If a flight school, instructor, or mentor reports inappropriate behavior, funds may be halted.
- Private Pilot Airplane scholarship awardees must pass an FAA Third Class Medical Exam prior to release of funds. (Not before applying.) This is not applicable to gliders. **Do research on prohibitive medications and conditions. If there are *any* doubts, consult the Flight Training Supervisor before taking the exam.**
- Flight training is not without risk. It is imperative students abide by the policies set by their flight training provider and exercise good decision making. Under no circumstances should a student push themselves beyond safe operating procedures in the interest of efficiency. **Scholarship program deadlines are never sufficient cause to accept risk.**

### **Selection Process**

There are two review committees. 1) The WOTR Captain Jeppesen Foundation is the primary committee and reviews all scholarship applications. 2) Daedalian Flight 18 (DFT18) is military focused; they will review applications of JROTC and Civil Air Patrol members. (JROTC and CAP applicants will be reviewed by both committees, increasing chances at receiving a scholarship.) DFT18 selects one scholarship awardee. The Captain Jeppesen Foundation selects all others.

The first level of evaluation is the application form. Due to anticipated volume, most applicants will not advance beyond this phase; do not be discouraged from reapplying in 2024. Applicants who have passed the Private Pilot Aeronautical Knowledge Exam or who have taken a Private Pilot Ground School course (including online courses) will be the most competitive. Prior experience in small aircraft is also beneficial, such as a discovery flight with a local flight school, Young Eagle flight, or a flight experience at WOTR.

Interviews with the Captain Jeppesen Foundation will be announced and scheduled by the WOTR Flight Training Supervisor via email. Daedalian interviews will be scheduled and announced separately. (JROTC and CAP members should monitor their email inboxes for both WOTR and DFT18 announcements.) Interviews will be held at Centennial Airport in Englewood, CO. A virtual option will be provided for candidates beyond a reasonable commuting distance.

Following interviews, competitive candidates will be selected for final screening. Applicants must complete the below tasks to have funds released. WOTR will provide resources to help complete these tasks. More information will follow at the Expectations Meeting. This meeting marks the beginning of final screening; attendance is mandatory. It will be held at Centennial Airport in Englewood, CO. A virtual option will be provided for candidates beyond a reasonable commuting distance.

If an applicant already has these tasks completed by their interview date, funds can be released April 7<sup>th</sup>. Applicants who complete screening tasks after their interview date can have funds released between June 1<sup>st</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.

- Pass the FAA Class 3 Medical Exam (exempting glider applicants).
- Pass the Private Pilot Aeronautical Knowledge Exam.
- Complete a Private Pilot Ground School course, in-person or online.
- Take a flight in a small aircraft.
- Get checked out in WOTR flight simulators (exempting long distance applicants).
- Select a flight school and instructor, and reserve time on their schedule.
- Fill out Final Screening Form with documentation of completed tasks.

### **Dates to Save**

February 17<sup>th</sup>: Applications close.

March 8<sup>th</sup>: Candidates advancing to interviews will be announced.

March 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>: Dates available for interviews. (DFT18 scheduled separately.)

March 24<sup>th</sup>: Candidates advancing to final screening will be announced.

April 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mandatory expectations meeting

April 7<sup>th</sup>: For those applicants with screening tasks previously completed, funds will be released.

April 8<sup>th</sup>: Start date of WOTR in-house ground school course. (Saturdays through May 27<sup>th</sup>.)

April 15<sup>th</sup>: The majority of intro flights will be scheduled this day (weather pending).

April 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>: Checkouts for WOTR flight simulators will be available these days.

May 13<sup>th</sup> Aviation Symposium: Opportunity to meet flight schools, universities, and employers.

June 1<sup>st</sup>: For applicants who have completed their screening tasks, funds will be released.

June 30<sup>th</sup>: The final deadline to complete screening tasks, no scholarships awarded thereafter.

July 15<sup>th</sup>: Banquet event to kick off 2023 and celebrate 2022 accomplishments.

February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024: Completion deadline.

### **Contact**

Valerie Blome, Flight Training Supervisor, is available to answer questions about the application process. Email: [VBlome@WingsMuseum.org](mailto:VBlome@WingsMuseum.org) During application season, response time on emails may be slow. Please consider calling her office extension at **(303) 360 - 5360 ext. 135**.