

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 and qualifications for applicants.

Scholarships Available

Private Pilot Glider Scholarship

- Up to \$7,200
- Ages fifteen through eighteen (Age as of February 1st, 2023)
- Completion time: 8 months

Private Pilot Airplane Scholarship

- Up to \$12,000
- Ages sixteen through eighteen (Age as of February 1st, 2023)
- Completion time: 8 months
- FAA Class 3 Medical Certificate required

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. If an awardee incurs a balance with a flight training provider which exceeds the scholarship amount, they assume responsibility. (Awardees must monitor their spending. It is possible for the scholarship amount to be exceeded between WOTR payments.)
- If the estimated cost of an awardee's flight training increases due to severe extenuating circumstances (i.e. a prolonged break in training due to injury, illness, natural disaster, or bereavement), the awardee can appeal to Wings Over the Rockies for relief funding. These funds are not guaranteed.
- The scholarship ends when the applicant earns their Private Pilot Certification. Charges on the date of the final practical exam will be the last payments from WOTR.
- 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. It will be a much smaller investment to cover the final flights following the scholarship than to stop training and relearn later.
- Aircraft rental rates greatly impact the longevity of scholarship funds. Scholarship awardees should seek aircraft under \$145/hr.

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 ROTC and Civil Air Patrol members. (ROTC 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. (ROTC 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 7th. Applicants who complete screening tasks after their interview date can have funds released between June 1st and 31st.

- 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 17th: Applications close.

March 8th: Candidates advancing to interviews will be announced.

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

March 24th: Candidates advancing to final screening will be announced.

April 2nd: Mandatory expectations meeting

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

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

April 15th, 16th, 22nd, 23rd: The majority of intro flights and simulator checkouts will be these days.

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

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

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

July 15th: Banquet event to kick off 2023 and celebrate 2022 accomplishments.

February 29th, 2024: Completion deadline.

Awardee Expectations

WOTR will track awardee progress toward certification in conjunction with an assigned mentor. Awardees are to maintain communication with their mentor and the Flight Training Supervisor, fill out all requested documentation and reports, and frequently check their email.

To accomplish the eight-month completion goal, awardees must fly a minimum of two days per week, with the understanding that flights are canceled for a variety of reasons. Frequent flying is critical to reducing cost. For every flight, anticipate extra time for preflight and postflight procedures, as well as ground instruction. With two flights a week, an awardee should plan six to eight hours into their schedule. Additionally, Scholarship awardees are responsible for maintaining the study regimen set by their flight instructor. Ground studies are a critical to achieving Private Pilot Certification. The workload is equivalent to adding an additional class to a semester. Juggling too many extracurricular activities will prohibit success in flight training.

If not certified (or very close) by the completion date, remaining funding will be reabsorbed by the scholarship program. Scholarship awardees can appeal for extensions for uncontrollable circumstances, but communication with the Flight Training Supervisor at the first sign of delay is essential. If scheduling limitations with a flight training provider are hindering progress, an awardee should relocate to a more productive environment.

WOTR has a zero-tolerance policy for unprofessional conduct. If a flight school, instructor, or mentor reports inappropriate behavior, funds may be halted. These scholarships are a privilege, and awardees will be held to the professional standards of the aviation industry.

Monthly meetings are provided, offering study sessions, networking, guest speakers, and aviation showcase events. A scholarship recipient must make every effort to attend and notify the supervisor if they cannot, exempting those who have an unreasonable commuting distance.

Private Pilot Airplane scholarship awardees must pass an FAA Third Class Medical Exam prior to release of funds. This is not applicable to gliders. **Do research on prohibitive medications and conditions. If there are any doubts, consult the Flight Training Supervisor.** In most cases, applicants can transition into gliders if there is an issue. **Never taking a medical exam is significantly better than failing one!**

Contact

Valerie Blome, Flight Training Supervisor, is available to answer questions about the application process. Email: 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**. She cannot divulge details of the interview process, but she can offer information on study resources, local flight schools, and the scholarship program structure.