

James C. Ray Foundation Flight Training Scholarship Expectations & Application Requirements

Overview

The James C. Ray Foundation provides funding for flight training scholarships, which Wings Over the Rockies distributes across Colorado. These are available to applicants ages fifteen through eighteen who seek Private Pilot Certification in gliders or single engine airplanes. After certification, any remaining funds will be reabsorbed by the scholarship program.

The application forum is the first level of evaluation. Competitive candidates will be selected for an interview with the Wings Over the Rockies Captain Jeppesen Foundation. Candidates who advance beyond the interview will be required to meet a series of expectations (outlined below). Awards will only be released upon completion of these expectations and their deadlines.

Applicants must be Colorado residents, and flight training must be completed through a local flight school or flight club. Funds will not be accessible if an awardee leaves the state. (One-time charges for out of state vendors are acceptable.)

Scholarships Available

Expansive Private Pilot Scholarship: This award is intended for applicants with minimal flying experience. Wings Over the Rockies will provide ground school, flight simulator checkouts, and discovery flights. These resources are key to achieving certification within the awarded amount.

- Glider Expansive Scholarship
 - Up to \$6,000
 - Ages fifteen through eighteen (Age as of July 1st, 2022)
 - Completion time: 8 months (Extensions only available for extenuating circumstances)

- Airplane Expansive Scholarship
 - Up to \$10,000
 - Ages sixteen through eighteen (Age as of July 1st, 2022)
 - Completion time: 8 months (Extensions only available for extenuating circumstances)
 - FAA Third Class Medical Certificate required

Flexible Private Pilot Scholarship: This scholarship is available for student pilots who have already made progress on their flight training and would like assistance to complete their Private Pilot Certificate, in airplanes or gliders. Amounts will vary depending upon the applicant's proximity to certification. All the resources of the Expansive Scholarship are available, but applicants are not required to participate in activities which were completed through their flight training prior to applying.

- Flexible Scholarship
 - \$1,000 - \$5,000
 - Ages sixteen through eighteen, (Age as of July 1st, 2022)
 - Completion time: 8 months



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All applicants will complete the same application form. Decisions on Flexible versus Expansive Scholarships are made on a case by case basis. An applicant with flight training logged may be given either type of scholarship based on an assessment of their progress level.

Dates to Save & Selection Process

Screening Level One:

Friday February 18th: Applications Open <https://explorationofflight.org/scholarships/>

Friday March 18th: Applications Close

Friday April 15th: Announce the candidates who will advance to interviews.

Screening Level Two:

Interviews will take no more than one hour and will be scheduled on a first come first serve basis. Slots will be available: **Saturday April 23rd, Sunday April 24th, Saturday April 30th, & Sunday May 1st**

Saturday May 7th: Announce candidates who will advance to the final screening process.

Screening Level Three:

Saturday, May 14th: Information Meeting – This event is mandatory. If you cannot attend, notify the Flight Training Supervisor in advance. Unexplained absences are grounds for dismissal. (For applicants who live hours away from the Denver metro, a virtual option may be provided.)

Saturday May 21st: Discovery Flights – These are mandatory for applicants who have minimal experience in small aircraft. *Every effort must be made to attend this date.* Other options are available on a limited basis and must be scheduled in advance. If we cannot schedule you, this task must be completed through a flight school no later than June 17th.

Flight Simulator Checkouts are mandatory for all awardees. (Exempting applicants who live an impractical distance from our Centennial facility.) These tools are available at no cost to the applicant or their scholarship and will enable them to supplement their flight training and reduce cost. The planned dates are **Saturday June 4th and Sunday June 5th** with limited additional scheduling available.

For applicants who have not already completed a Private Pilot Ground School course (in person or online), attending one of the Wings Over the Rockies courses is mandatory. For those who have already completed an online course, these classes are optional but encouraged. Classes are available to all awardees, even those who only need review. We will provide two options.

- 1) **A week-long course which runs all day from Monday June 6th – Friday June 10th**

2) A once weekly 3-hour course which runs from Sunday June 5th through Sunday July 31st

Saturday, June 11th: Flight Training & Aviation Career Symposium – Multiple local flight schools from a range of airports will attend this event. This is a unique opportunity to make an informed decision on where you would like to fly. The event is open to the public, even if you don't get a scholarship. There will likely be other organizations who offer scholarships in attendance.

If applying for an airplane scholarship, **Tuesday June 14th** is the deadline to complete your FAA 3rd Class Medical Exam. We will provide information on what to expect and offer consultation for any medications or medical history which may interrupt this process. *If you have any hesitation, do not rush into the exam room.* (Scholarship funds can be accessed early for the sole purpose of meeting this requirement.)

Friday June 17th: Deadline to submit Flight School Selection, & Training Plan – This gives you a week after the Symposium to visit any schools which appeal to you, meet the instructors, and determine your flight training schedule.

Friday June 24th: If you complete all of the above, your scholarship funds will be released. **(For flexible scholarships and those who complete tasks early, funds may be released sooner.)** A checklist will be provided for applicants to log tasks as they complete them.

Sunday August 14th / \$5,000 spent / before solo cross-country flight (whichever comes first): This is the deadline to complete the FAA Aeronautical Knowledge Test. After this point, funds will be withheld until the exam is passed. If there is a conflict getting on the schedule at a test center, or there is a subject which is causing confusion, communicate right away.

Awardee Expectations

If you are awarded a scholarship, we will track your progress toward certification in conjunction with an assigned Wingman mentor. You will be expected to maintain communication with your Wingman and the Flight Training Supervisor. Fill out all requested documentation and reports, and frequently check your email. Do not hesitate to inform the supervisor if you encounter setbacks.

To accomplish the eight-month completion goal, awardees must schedule a minimum of two flights per week, with the understanding that flights are canceled for a variety of reasons. Frequent flying is critical to developing muscle memory and forming good habits. **More time between flights = More flights needed = Increased cost.** For every flight, anticipate extra time for preflight and postflight procedures, as well as one-on-one ground instruction. With two flights a week, an awardee should plan at least six hours into their schedule.

If you are not certified by the end of this timeframe, any remaining funding will be reabsorbed by the scholarship program. Extensions can be provided under certain circumstances, but you must communicate with the Flight Training Supervisor at the first sign of delay and prove the cause of the setback. For uncontrollable factors, such as weather, injury, or examiner shortages, we are understanding. However, if scheduling limitations at your chosen flight school are hindering progress, we recommend relocating to a more productive training environment.

You are responsible for maintaining a study regimen and ensuring you meet the homework expectations set by your flight instructor. You cannot become a certified pilot through flying alone. We have set firm deadlines to take the *Private Pilot Aeronautical Knowledge Exam*, which may come earlier than your flight instructor would normally require of their students. We cannot afford to spend thousands of dollars on leisure flights and must ensure an awardee has the academic motivation for success. You must abide by **whichever deadline comes first: Sunday August 14th / \$5,000 spent / before solo cross-country flight.**

We will not tolerate unprofessional conduct. If your flight school, instructor, or Wingman report inappropriate behavior, funds may be withheld. These scholarships are a privilege, and you 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. Digital options may be explored, if there are awardees located beyond a reasonable commuting distance from our campus.

Applicant age restrictions are determined by these completion times and legal certification minimums. The federally enforced minimum age to be certified in an airplane is seventeen. In a glider, this is reduced to sixteen. Due to the costly nature of multi-year training plans, younger applicants would be prohibitively far away from their goal to achieve certification within the awarded amount. If the applicant is too young, they are encouraged to apply in a later cycle.

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 you have doubts or questions, consult the Flight Training Supervisor before taking the exam.** A pilot who never takes an exam has better options than a pilot who fails one. In most cases, for applicants who have disqualifying medical conditions, a change in aircraft rating or a delayed start will still allow them to take advantage of a scholarship. Scholarship funds can be accessed early for the purpose of paying the medical examiner.

With the inclusion of ground school courses, flight simulator access, and other resources provided by Wings Over the Rockies, training costs will be reduced. However, even with these efforts, we do not guarantee certification will be achieved within the awarded amount. And we do not guarantee additional funding. If training circumstances do not seem conducive to maintaining the budget, communicate with the Flight Training Supervisor right away.

Always monitor your spending. In most examples, the supervisor will have an accurate record of charges to date. However, some flight schools only send monthly statements. If a large statement exceeds the scholarship amount, we do not guarantee we will cover the difference. Do not allow yourself to be surprised by an unexpected bill.

Funds can only be used for Private Pilot Certification. If an awardee completes their certification with funding remaining, this money will be reabsorbed into the program and allocated to new applicants. Scholarships for further ratings, endorsements, and certifications are not available at this time. We encourage you to explore other scholarship providers.

Expectations may evolve with the program. Any changes will be clearly communicated.

Use of Scholarship Funds

Items Funded Prior to the Official Release of Awards:

- Medical Exam

Items Funded After Release of Awards:

- Aircraft Rental (Including cost of glider tow plane)
- Flight Instructor (Including ground instruction)
- Designated Pilot Examiner Fee (For the Practical Exam)

Circumstantial Items:

- Training Materials & Flight Gear - We will only purchase products which cannot be provided through Wings Over the Rockies, and we will not fund supplies that are non-essential for student pilots.
- Aeronautical Knowledge Exam, (The Written Exam) – This must be purchased in advance through an online portal. To streamline bookkeeping, we request awardees submit receipts, instead of coordinating with the program to pay up front. This fee was not included in previous scholarship cycles and may continue to be conditional. More information to come.
- Aircraft Renters Insurance – If the flight school purchases the insurance on your behalf, we can reimburse them. However, it is extraordinarily difficult for us to pay insurance companies directly. With larger schools, we may negotiate with them to wave the insurance fees. However, this is not an option for all businesses. In any case, these policies are not overly expensive.

Stipulations:

- To pay any business or individual, we must be able to establish them as a vendor. They must submit to us a W-9 form. If working with a company, instructor, or examiner that is new to the scholarship program, notify the Flight Training Supervisor in advance and provide contact information for the new vendor. If it is a large business, please identify the contact for the finance department.
- All vendors must submit to us invoices or detailed statements. We will only pay if there is a basic description of the service provided. (i.e. 1.5 hours flight time @ \$130/hr and 2.0 hours instructor time @ \$55/hr.) We already work with many local schools, but if you find someone new, put them in contact with the Flight Training Supervisor right away.
- We will not send money to the awardee, only to businesses working with them. **Please coordinate with the vendor to invoice us directly.** If it is one of the *limited* situations where the awardee can be reimbursed, please provide a receipt.



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Contact

If you have any questions, please contact Valerie Blome, the Flight Training Supervisor.

VBlome@WingsMuseum.org

303.360.5360 x 135

To Apply

Please visit <https://explorationofflight.org/scholarships/>

The application link will be added to this webpage on February 18th, 2022 and be removed March 18th, 2022.

The application cannot be saved and reopened. We recommend you write responses in a separate document and compile the requested records, then copy the information into the form in one sitting. We have not had any technical difficulties with this service, but we encourage you to confirm via email with the Flight Training Supervisor that the application was received.

If there is a delay collecting transcripts or letters of recommendation, these can be separately emailed to the Supervisor after submitting the form. However, only do so as a last resort.