

Wings' Flight Training Scholarships

Supported by the Ray Foundation

2025 Applicant Expectations

The 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 nineteen 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 \$7,000
- Ages fifteen through nineteen
- Completion time: 12 months

Private Pilot Airplane Scholarship

- Up to \$12,000
- Ages sixteen through nineteen
- Completion time: 12 months
- FAA Class 3 Medical Certificate required (minimum)

Award Stipulations:

- The full award amount is available as long as the scholarship awardee satisfactorily meets all expectations, demonstrates effort and organization in obtaining flight training and exhibits professional and ethical behavior at all times. WOTR has a zero-tolerance policy for unprofessional conduct. If a flight school, instructor, or mentor reports inappropriate behavior, funds may be halted.
- Wings Over the Rockies will perform quarterly reviews (or more often if necessary) with each awardee to make sure they are on track with their flight training. Reviews will be performed by the Flight Training Manager in concert with the awardee's assigned Wings over the Rockies Mentor (Wingman). After 12 months, if there are concerns with the awardee's progress, availability of funds may be suspended upon further review.
- The award amount can only be used to pay for:
 - Cost of Aircraft Rental
 - Cost of Certified Flight Instructor lessons
 - Cost of headset rental
 - Cost of checkride
- The award amount cannot be used to pay for:
 - Any dues
 - Any Sales Taxes
 - Flight accessories (computers, plotters, etc.)
 - FAA Medical

- The scholarship ends when the applicant earns their Private Pilot Certification for Glider or Airplane. Charges on the date of the final practical exam will be the last payments from WOTR.
- If the estimated cost of an awardee's flight training increases due to 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.
- Either glider or airplane training will be funded, not both. An awardee cannot use leftover funds to begin training in the other aircraft category.
- Those who have already begun Private Pilot training are welcome to apply. However, the award amount may be reduced on a prorated basis based on current hours logged.
- Applicants must be Colorado residents, and flight training must be completed at a Colorado business. If an awardee leaves the state, scholarship funds will not be accessible.
- Award amounts are not guaranteed to cover the complete cost of training.

Application and Selection Process

First Step: Application

The first level of evaluation is the application form where applicants will be asked to provide their information along with reasons why they are applying. Competitive applicants will include those who have passed the FAA Private Pilot Aeronautical Knowledge Exam or who have taken a Private Pilot Ground School course. 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 in general aviation aircraft.

Second Step: Interview

After all applications have been received, those applicants chosen for interviews will be contacted by the WOTR Flight Training Manager via email. Interviews will be held at Centennial Airport (KAPA) in Englewood, CO. A virtual option will be provided for candidates who live beyond a reasonable commuting distance.

Third Step: Awards

Following the interviews, applicants that have been chosen to receive a scholarship will be notified by the WOTR Flight Training Manager that they have been selected for final screening via email and/or phone call. All applicants must attend the April 7th expectations meeting at Centennial (KAPA) airport. All awardees must complete each Scholarship Requirements Task prior to any disbursement of their scholarship. Failure to complete all tasks will rescind the scholarship offer. Please note: Any of the below steps may be completed at any time during the application process.

- Pass the FAA Class 3 Medical Exam (exempting glider applicants).
- Complete an FAA Private Pilot Ground School course, in-person or online.
- Pass the FAA Private Pilot Aeronautical Knowledge Exam.
- 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.

Awardee Expectations

- To meet the twelve-month completion goal, awardees must commit to adjusting their personal schedules to dedicate time for flight training of at least three to four lessons per week. This accounts for potential cancellations due to weather, mechanical issues, or illness. In practice this typically requires setting aside a minimum of eight to ten hours per week for flight training, though more time may be necessary to stay on track.
- Awardees may have to cancel or postpone other extracurricular activities during flight training in order to remain proficient as they work toward the FAA checkride.
- In addition to the above, awardees are expected to participate in monthly meetings and maintain communication with the WOTR Flight Training Manager for any and all issues pertaining to their training or scholarships.

WOTR Resources

WOTR will provide opportunities for all awardees to participate in sponsored study sessions, networking, lectures, and aviation showcase events.

Dates to Save

1/6/25: Applicant Expectations posted online

1/13/25: Applications Open

2/14/25: Applications Close

3/3/25: Interview Announcements

3/8/25 & 3/9/25: Interview Week 1

3/15/25 & 3/16/25: Interview Week 2

3/31/25: Final Screening Announcements

4/7/25: Expectations Meeting

4/11/25: Earliest Possible Funding Release

6/9/25: Final Screening Deadline

Contact

John Cieraszyński, Flight Training Manager, is available to answer any and all questions about the application process and any scholarship questions. He can be reached at jcieraszyński@wingmuseum.org or via Phone (303) 360-5360 ext 163.

