



# Young Eagles

## *Program Handbook*

An introduction to the EAA Young Eagles program, designed to introduce and inspire kids in the world of aviation.



*"Aviation seeds* must be  
transplanted to future generations if  
we are to see our rich heritage passed  
on for others to see, to feel, to fly."

-PAUL H. POBEREZNÝ





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# Young Eagles *Program Handbook*

## What is EAA's Young Eagles Program?

EAA Young Eagles is a program dedicated to giving youth ages 8-17 an opportunity to go flying in a general aviation airplane. These flights are offered free of charge and are made possible through the generosity of EAA member volunteers. It is the only program of its kind, with the sole mission to introduce and inspire kids in the world of aviation. Launched in 1992, the Young Eagles program has dedicated more than 28 years to giving more than 2.2 million young people an introductory flight. Learn more at [EAA.org/YoungEagles](http://EAA.org/YoungEagles).







## Why EAA Members Volunteer to Participate in the Young Eagles Program

EAA members volunteer in EAA's Young Eagles program for a variety of reasons. Some see it as a chance to pay back the kindness of those who inspired them to pursue flying. Others enjoy the opportunity to share their interest in aviation with young people. All simply enjoy flying.

The hard work and dedication of volunteers is the primary reason why the Young Eagles program continues to be a success in building the next generation of aviators. The Young Eagles program is unquestionably the best youth aviation program in the world, and it is due to the thousands of dedicated EAA members who make the opportunity available for youth to experience flight in a general aviation airplane.

## Who Manages the Young Eagles Program?

The national EAA organization located in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, manages the EAA Young Eagles program, and provides direction to EAA members and EAA chapters to engage in the program. Using free program materials available from EAA, volunteer pilots, ground volunteers, chapters, and squadrons administer the flights.

# How to Offer Young Eagle Flights

EAA offers two ways for EAA members to offer Young Eagles flights to kids. One of the reasons EAA's Young Eagles program is successful is the simplicity of the concept — a pilot and child go flying. While our ultimate goal for the Young Eagles experience is for a child to have a one-on-one experience with the pilot, it is not always possible. There are advantages to scheduling a group event or “flight rally.” The flight rally is a popular activity for a number of reasons. A chapter can concentrate volunteer resources to fly Young Eagles, handle paperwork, and safety. It is often easier to handle groups of children, such as from a youth group or school, and there is a social aspect of participating with other volunteers on a flight day.

- 1. One-On-One Pilot and Young Eagles Flight** - EAA member volunteer pilots may provide an introductory flight to a youth at their local airport. Using free EAA-provided materials, a pilot may provide a Young Eagle flight by completing the easy-to-use Young Eagles flight form, which includes a parental or guardian waiver. Upon conclusion of the flight, the pilot will provide a completion certificate and a logbook to the youth. In addition to recording the first flight, the logbook is used by the youth to join EAA with a free student membership and receive significant program benefits.
- 2. Young Eagles Rally** - EAA chapters and squadrons may host a Young Eagles rally to provide introductory flights to youth in a group format. Whether the kids are all from a single group, such as a school class, or they arrive one-by-one in an open format, the only opportunity for an organization to host a Young Eagles rally in a group setting is through engagement in an EAA chapter. Using EAA-provided materials, chapter volunteers may provide a Young Eagles flight by completing the easy-to-use Young Eagles flight form, which includes a parental or guardian waiver. Upon conclusion of the flight, the pilot will provide a Young Eagles completion certificate and a complimentary logbook to the youth. In addition to recording the first flight, the logbook is used by the youth to join EAA with a free student membership and receive significant program benefits.

All Young Eagles rallies must have an EAA-approved Young Eagles Coordinator to ensure all aspects of the event run safely and are facilitated appropriately. A Young Eagles rally occurs any time there are more than two pilots providing Young Eagles flights, or there are two pilots at aircraft capacity and youth participants are left waiting on the ground for a Young Eagles flight. The size of the event is not what matters; it is the quality and safety of the event that always come first. We suggest that you start with a small, first-time effort to develop procedures that work best for your area. Visit [YoungEaglesDay.org](https://www.young eaglesday.org) to get started.





# EAA Young Eagles Leaders

EAA members may participate in the following volunteer positions associated with the Young Eagles program:

**EAA Young Eagles Chapter Coordinators** facilitate and promote safe Young Eagles events within the EAA chapter network. Chapter Coordinators are a vital link between the chapter and the EAA national Young Eagles Office and serve as liaison between EAA chapter members, EAA members-at-large, and interested young people, their parents, or youth organizations.

**EAA Young Eagles Chapter Ground Volunteers** assist the Young Eagles Coordinator in all areas of a rally to ensure program facilitation and safety. Ground volunteers' support may include assisting with parking and directing aircraft, helping children and parents complete the registration forms before their flight, assigning children to fly with available pilots, escorting children safely to and from the aircraft, and completing the Young Eagles certificates for presentation following the flights. EAA chapters design and manage Young Eagles rallies making the chapters the key component to the success of the program. The program simply cannot be maintained without the dedicated efforts of volunteers.

**EAA Young Eagles Program Chairmen** embody The Spirit of Aviation and serve as role models to youth who may have an interest in aviation.

Sean D. Tucker, EAA Lifetime 259123, has been called the "Ambassador of Aerobatics" by the National Aviation Hall of Fame in which he was enshrined in 2008. In 2013, EAA named Sean as the chairman of EAA Young Eagles, aviation's flagship program to introduce children to flight. Sean has assumed the responsibility with great fervor, engaging kids in aviation and recognizing the more than 55,000 volunteer pilots who have flown millions of Young Eagles since the program began.

In 2018, NFL tight end Jimmy Graham joined Sean as the co-chair of EAA Young Eagles. Jimmy, EAA 1139302, has embraced the role, reaching out to at-risk youth and encouraging them to see their world from new heights. He is an experienced aerobatic pilot, has dipped his toes into the world of seaplanes, and is now a helicopter pilot. In his day job, Jimmy is one of the best tight ends in the National Football League.

Award-winning actor and pilot Cliff Robertson served as the program's founding chairman. Other past chairmen include Gen. Chuck Yeager, Harrison Ford, and US Airways flight crew Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger and Jeff Skiles.



# The EAA Youth Protection Policy and Program

EAA's Youth Protection Policy and Program sets basic requirements for EAA volunteers who work with children under age 18. It includes online best-practices training and, for certain categories of volunteers, a basic background check (**U.S. and Canadian residents only**).

To learn more about who is required to complete both the online training and background check, visit [EAA.org/YouthProtection](https://EAA.org/YouthProtection). Please also review the policy and the frequently asked questions pages on the website.

## Student Membership Benefits

EAA Student Membership is available FREE of charge to any young person age 8-18 who has completed a Young Eagles flight. A Young Eagles flight is just the beginning of exciting experiences in aviation. Significant benefits are immediately available to Young Eagles upon completion of their flight through the EAA Young Eagles Flight Plan, so be sure to provide the kids their logbook so they may unlock the benefit opportunities as soon as possible after their flight. In addition to providing a new Young Eagle with a logbook, make it a point to send in the completed parent waivers to EAA, as proper documentation of the flight is also required to execute the student member benefits.

Visit [EAA.org/FlightPlan](https://EAA.org/FlightPlan) to learn more.



## Young Eagles Day Online Event Registration System

The EAA Young Eagles online registration system is designed to help local EAA chapters plan, manage, and execute their Young Eagles rallies more efficiently. The easy-to-use tool allows chapters to organize Young Eagles rallies and offer online pre-registration for pilots, volunteers, and kids. The tool has the capability to create and post your event online, and to enable parents to sign up their kid(s) prior to the event. Pilots may also pre-register online as a volunteer, so the chapter has a clear understanding of who will be flying during the event. A chapter may schedule time slots for the kids to have better control over the flow of activity for both families and pilots, and the tool has the capability to check pilot Youth Protection Program currency. The system has the ability to send your chapter rally data to Oshkosh after the rally is complete for final EAA documentation. To learn more about the Young Eagles Day registration tool, and to view tutorial videos on how to use the tool, visit [YoungEaglesDay.org](https://www.YoungEaglesDay.org).

## Volunteer Recognition

Recognizing volunteers is an important component to a successful program, and EAA encourages chapters to make an effort to thank their volunteers. Every year, EAA provides chapters the opportunity to order free volunteer recognition pins for their Young Eagles program helpers. In addition to volunteer recognition pins, EAA provides items to volunteer pilots including certificates, patches, shirts, jackets, and more, available to them upon reaching specific Young Eagles flight milestones.





# EAA Insurance Opportunities

**The EAA Chapter Insurance Plan** provides the chapter, its officers, directors, members, and volunteers with Aviation Operations Liability Insurance Coverage for alleged negligence on the part of a chapter during an approved chapter event, including approved Young Eagles rallies or during an event the chapter has been approved to participate in. The chapter is responsible for requesting EAA Chapter Event Insurance using the easy-to-use Chapter Event Insurance Request Form available at [EAA.org/ChapterInsurance](http://EAA.org/ChapterInsurance).

**Young Eagles Excess Insurance Coverage** is a significant element of the Young Eagles programs; it's the insurance that protects the volunteer pilot as they participate. EAA has arranged comprehensive insurance for all aspects of the Young Eagles programs, all without a premium charge to the volunteer pilot. There are some key points that must be adhered to in order to ensure the pilot is protected. Only EAA members may conduct Young Eagles flights. Guidelines must be strictly followed in order for the insurance to apply and for the flight to be logged in their respective program. Please note that when the guidelines are met, this insurance is automatically in place for the flight and no additional insurance forms need to be completed.

## Young Eagles Credits Program

In appreciation to chapters when supporting the Young Eagles program, EAA typically provides Young Eagle Credits to chapters who participate in Young Eagles rallies. The purpose of the credits program is to assist chapters in furthering their Young Eagles program by providing them the opportunity to purchase equipment to enhance and support their program.

- > Credits may be used to send a youth to the EAA Air Academy and/or to enhance the local chapter Young Eagles program.
  - Safety Equipment: Orange Cones, Radios, Barriers, Bollards
  - Identification Gear: Safety Vests, Program Hats
  - Infrastructure Equipment: Computer, Printer, Ink, Paper, iPad, Flight Simulator Equipment
  - The credits earned in one year can be reimbursed the following year.
- > Traditionally, credits are valued at \$5 each and become available as program funding can support it.
- > Annual informational communications are sent to chapters and pilots informing them of their earned credits.



## Day of the Event

### ☐ Ground Operations

- **Welcome/Registration:** Establish a clearly-marked area where parents and Young Eagles can check in and begin their experience. Take time to answer questions and, if needed, help the parent complete the release/registration form.
- **Ground School:** Many chapters use a dedicated “ground school” using a static airplane for a group walk-around. This is not necessary, but has been effective and limits movement on the ramp.
- **Dispatch:** A dedicated clipboard for each pilot can help you quickly match Young Eagles to their pilot. A small mailing label (Avery 5160, for example) with the pilot’s name, EAA number, type of aircraft, and number of available seats can be attached to the clipboard. This makes it easy for a dispatch volunteer to introduce Young Eagles to their pilot and for the pilot to sign the forms before the flight. The forms remain on the ground in a folder for the pilot. The pilot is then responsible for the Young Eagles until after the flight.
- **Safety first. No child or parent should be allowed in the aircraft movement area without an escort. Remember that the general public is not familiar with airplanes, how they move, and the dangers of spinning propellers.**
- **Post-Flight:** Set aside an area where returning pilots and Young Eagles can talk about the flight, sign the logbook, and discuss EAA’s Flight Plan. The Young Eagle’s parent should be a part of this process so they know what EAA can offer their child. Take time to answer questions and thank them for sharing the flight.





## □ Flight Operations

- **All pilots should check in upon arrival with the event coordinator.** Pilots should make sure their registration information is up-to-date (mailing address, EAA number, aircraft).
- **Pilot Briefing:** All pilots must attend a pilot briefing prior to flying. Ground support volunteers should also attend. The coordinator, a designated pilot, or even a local ATC representative can provide the briefing. A sample pilot briefing is included at the end of this document.
- **Route of Flights:** Successful chapters have established Young Eagles flight routes and altitudes, so all participating pilots know where traffic may be. Coordinate routes with local air traffic control.
- **Volunteer Care:** Make sure there are plenty of refreshments available for your volunteers. You should also consider providing lunch or snacks for your volunteers. It is also important to monitor the health of your pilots and ground volunteers. Volunteers are often very dedicated and will fly until the last child is flown. Often they don't think about staying hydrated. If a pilot is starting to look tired or stressed, you should gently suggest they take a break and relax.

# Post-Event

## ☐ Debrief

- **Debrief:** Gather as many of your volunteers post-event to find out what went right and what didn't. Most important is how can you learn from the experience and improve your next event. Often chapters hold a cook-out or social gathering after an event — a great opportunity to debrief and have fun.
- **Thank You:** Take time to thank your volunteers and express appreciation to any others who helped make the event possible. Don't forget the airport manager, host FBO, or FAA tower staff. A simple thank-you note goes a long way.

This checklist is a guide to help you plan your first rally. As you become more comfortable with your volunteers and airport, feel free to adapt these ideas to your location.

## Sample Pilot Briefing Topics:

- > Welcome/Introductions
- > Review of pilot requirements, including completion of EAA Youth Protection Program
- > Weather
- > Who will we be flying?
- > Ground flow for paperwork (dispatch)
- > Ground flow for aircraft (taxi routes)
- > Flight route
- > Altitudes and airspeeds
- > NOTAMS
- > Ramp safety
- > Flight safety
- > Questions?

If you have additional questions or concerns please contact us;  
**[YEagles@EAA.org](mailto:YEagles@EAA.org)** or **800-JOINEAA (800-564-6322)**.



# Anatomy of an EAA Young Eagles Rally

1. EAA Young Eagles Rally Sign
2. Ample Parking
3. Observation and Staging Areas
4. Rest Rooms
5. Supplemental Education Area
6. Event Welcoming Area
7. Event Registration
8. Additional Chapter Materials
9. Young Eagles Airplanes





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