

Young Eagles and EAA's Youth Protection Policy

EAA has three distinct policies that cover Youth Protection; one of those is aimed directly at Young Eagles flights. This short document is intended to help you understand how the Young Eagles Youth Protection Policy works in an abbreviated format. The full policy is available at eaa.org/youthprotection.

Understanding the program – Why do we need to do this now?

The EAA Youth Protection Program has been put into place to keep youth safe in our EAA programs. Young Eagles is EAA's flagship youth program, and it belongs to all of the volunteers who have worked so hard to make it successful. The policy, training, and background screening are all key elements to a successful youth protection program, and mirror the process found in schools, scouts, churches, and other youth-oriented programs.

Training and background checks

All YE pilots, YE coordinators, and YE field representatives are required to complete the online training and background check. This takes about 15 minutes. The training and background check need to be renewed after three years. There are no exceptions for this group.

Rally ground crew are encouraged to complete the training and background check.

Pilots are responsible for ensuring they are complying with the Youth Protection Policy. YE Coordinators and field reps are not required to check the status of individual pilots who fly for your rally. We do ask that you do not allow pilots to fly who you *know* are not compliant. As always you are encouraged to remind pilots of the minimum requirements to fly Young Eagles, including airworthiness certificates, pilot certificates, currency, etc.

If a pilot who has not complied with the EAA Youth Protection Policy flies at your rally, EAA will notify the pilot and the coordinator/field rep of the situation. EAA will work with the pilot to help him or her comply with the policy. The coordinator/field representative should ask to see evidence of compliance before allowing the pilot to fly at another rally.

Individual pilots flying Young Eagles

Individual pilots flying Young Eagles on their own simply need to do the training and background check, as the rest of the policy applies only to rally situations.

Two-deep leadership

Two-deep leadership is not required in any of the aircraft used for YE flights.

In a rally situation you need to follow two deep leadership practices. This simply means two people on the ground need to have the background check and training completed. Young Eagles pilots who are on the ground are eligible to be part of the two approved adults who need to be present and circulating during the event. This makes having eligible people fairly easy because there are generally pilots on the ground during a rally. If you have a situation where all of the pilots are in the air, you would of course need to have other ground personnel approved through the EAA training and background check.

Waivers, permission slips and record keeping

The only waiver necessary for a YE rally or flight is the standard YE form which is sent back to Oshkosh after the flight. Chapters have no responsibility to retain any records from YE activities.

Communication and contact with youth

Helping youth and their parents understand the flight and what to expect has a number of benefits. First, youth and parents who know what to expect are less likely to feel anxious and are more likely to be able to have fun. Secondly, our aircraft are small, and physical contact is inevitable; helping people understand that fact saves potential misunderstandings. It also makes it more likely that you will be made aware of potential concerns your participants may have so you can help make them more comfortable.

While EAA would love to see you mentor a young person, common sense practice in today's climate is to initiate all communications through parents, not directly with the youth. The policy reflects this approach in keeping with our focus on child protection. Misunderstandings are common when using electronic communications with young people, so it is best to contact parents with any information you may need to share. The added benefit is that it is a great way to encourage the parent to get involved with aviation too!

Photography

Taking photos of youth at a rally to share with parents and for chapter use is still encouraged. We ask that you not post last names of youth, and be willing to refrain from photos if parents are uncomfortable with such photos.