30 Flights for 30 Years

Young Eagles is the only program of its kind, with the sole mission to introduce and inspire kids in the world of aviation. 2022 marked the 30-year anniversary since the Young Eagles program was launched at EAA Oshkosh 1992. Since then, more than 2.3 million youths aged 8-17 have had their first free airplane ride thanks to the Young Eagles program. More than 50,000 volunteer pilots and donors over the years have made this mission possible.

AirVenture Oshkosh 2022 kicked off the 30th anniversary with Young Eagles flights in the Ford Tri-Motor and Bell 47 helicopter, a ceremonial flight, evening programming, a group photo, and much more.

To mark the milestone, EAA challenged volunteer Young Eagles pilots to fly 30 youths from August 1, 2022, to July 31, 2023. At the end of the fiscal year, more than 120 pilots completed the challenge, which helped more youths than ever experience flight. The challenge helped reach record-breaking numbers in the program, including 54,768 Young Eagles flown, 4,334 Young Eagles pilots — both record numbers since fiscal year 2020 — and 1,224 first-time Young Eagles pilots — the most in more than a decade!
EAA chapters make these flights possible. Without them, it would be difficult to reach the younger generations.

As the largest youth aviation program ever created, Young Eagles provides and gives an opportunity of a lifetime. These flights ignite a sense of wonder and curiosity about aviation in youths that can’t be found elsewhere.