

T W O - T H O U S A N D E L E V E N
Y O U N G E A G L E S Y E A R B O O K





Dear Friends,

Inspiring and motivating future aviators has been important to EAA since the organization was founded. Since 1992, EAA members and thousands of volunteers have dedicated themselves to the Young Eagles program, which has now touched the lives of more than 1.6 million young people and their families. Undeniably, Young Eagles is the most significant youth aviation program in history.

The EAA Young Eagles program has had an impact beyond those initial flight experiences. Recent research has uncovered some interesting statistics that illustrate the results of Young Eagles. For example, did you know that **more than 7 percent of all active U.S. pilots ages 15-34 are former Young Eagles?** That number is only destined to grow in the future. The seeds we have planted are showing strong success.

These flights are a launch pad for the future. Thanks to your support, we are now able to offer Young Eagles a "Flight Plan" to help guide and motivate them through the process of obtaining a pilot certificate. The Flight Plan includes a complimentary EAA student membership, online study through the Sporty's Complete Pilot Training course, the opportunity to earn a free first flight lesson, and the ability to apply for flight training scholarships. All of this has been accomplished through the efforts of our Young Eagles volunteers and our program supporters.

This yearbook features a brief compilation of success stories we have discovered during the past year. Yet, they represent only a small fraction of the Young Eagles who are now part of the aviation world.

Thank you for sharing your time and talent with tomorrow's aviators!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Poberezny". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Tom Poberezny
EAA Chairman of the Board

A PASSION FOR FLIGHT.

A COMMITMENT TO YOU.



ConocoPhillips is the proud sponsor of the 2011 EAA AirVenture.

76 and its respective logos are trademarks of ConocoPhillips Company or one of its subsidiaries. Other products, logos and company names mentioned herein may be trademarks or service marks of their respective owners. Conoco and its respective logos are trademarks of ConocoPhillips Company or one of its subsidiaries. Other products, logos and company names mentioned herein may be trademarks or service marks of their respective owners. Phillips 66 and the Phillips 66 logo are trademarks of ConocoPhillips Company or one of its subsidiaries. © 2011 ConocoPhillips Company. All rights reserved.

**ConocoPhillips**

ConocoPhillips is proud to support the **EAA Young Eagles program** and is dedicated to helping youth discover their life potential through the experience of flight. The EAA Young Eagles First Flight and other programs build sound values and foster hard work, determination and personal achievement.

They also provide opportunities to use real-world applications of math, science and geography in a fun way. We hope the program will inspire many more of our nation's youth to aim for new heights.



phillips66aviation.com



To instill a passion for flying is to instill a passion for adventure.

That spirit of adventure puts us all on a path to great things.

I speak for the entire Johnson family when I say

that we are proud to support Young Eagles.



On July 31, 1992, an ambitious program was launched from the runways at Wittman Regional Airport. Since that day, more than 1.6 million young people have soared into the sky through the EAA Young Eagles program. Powered by a desire to inspire a new generation of aviators, EAA volunteer pilots and ground crews have made the Young Eagles program one of the most successful and recognized youth aviation programs.

EAA has a long and rich tradition of inspiring young people, beginning with Project Schoofflight in 1957. Since 1984, the EAA Air Academy has evolved from a two-week camp for a handful of young people into a summer-long series of camps focusing on different age groups and interests. The EAA Air Academy now reaches nearly 300 teenagers annually.

Young Eagles has created tangible results. Last fall, EAA, in cooperation with the FAA, initiated a research project to determine measurable results from the Young Eagles program. That project uncovered some fascinating facts.

- Young people who take part in a Young Eagles flight experience are 5.4 times more likely to become an active pilot than those young people of the same age who did not have a Young Eagles flight experience.
- Of all active U.S. pilots (those with a pilot certificate and current medical certificate) ages 15-34, 7.3 percent of them had a Young Eagles flight experience.
- The more times a Young Eagle flies, the more likely he or she will become an active pilot. Young Eagles with five or more flight experiences are eight times more likely to earn pilot certificates than those with only one Young Eagles flight.





- Nine percent of the active pilots who were Young Eagles are female. That compares to approximately six percent for the current U.S. pilot population as a whole.
- In addition, these numbers do not reflect the increased activity at local airports due to Young Eagles events or the many “friends of aviation” (parents, family members, airport neighbors) who now have a positive image of general aviation.

On the following pages, you will read about some of the achievements of our Young Eagles and Air Academy alumni. We know their stories, hopes, and achievements are a testament to the commitment, time, and the financial support of tens of thousands of individuals, corporations, and foundations who helped light the fire within the hearts and minds of our Young Eagles.

Your support of Young Eagles and the other programs under this banner will help prepare young people from all backgrounds to become the engineers, aviators, and innovators—the aviation pioneers of tomorrow. Thank you!

The presenting sponsor of the EAA Young Eagles program is ConocoPhillips, which has supported the program in many ways, including the fuel rebate program. Samuel C. Johnson provided the initial endowment for the program staff leadership. Additional support is provided by Sporty's Pilot Shop, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Global Aerospace, the Jim and Angela Thompson Foundation, Rolls-Royce, Lightspeed, ForeFlight, and many other individual and corporate supporters.

In November 2006, Brendan Abernethy made a brilliant discovery.

"I have been interested in planes since I saw my first airplane. They have always fascinated me and then I discovered that I could learn to fly. Young Eagles gave me the nudge to show I could actually do it," Abernethy said.

After his first flight, Abernethy started flight training. During this time, he went to basic training and was deployed to Afghanistan. Following an eight-month deployment, he returned home in December 2010.

Recently, he picked up his flight training again. On March 17, 2011, Abernethy soloed and is currently working toward his private pilot certificate. In the future, Abernethy hopes to obtain his instrument rating, as well as a commercial pilot certificate. Abernethy loves flying, but doesn't have a specific favorite.

"I can't pick one. I like all of it, but I once had the opportunity to land on a grass strip. I felt like I was really flying at that point," Abernethy said.

In the fall, Abernethy will begin working on a degree in physics at Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory, North Carolina. Although he doesn't

have any immediate plans for the future, Abernethy hopes to continue to be involved in aviation and find a job doing research or in industry with his physics degree.

"Aviation is a good hobby. You can go somewhere you want that may take hours to drive and a shorter time to fly," he said.

Abernethy, of Hickory, North Carolina, also works part time as part of the line crew at the local airport. This parttime job has helped teach him how to properly identify aircraft. Besides attending school and working part time, Abernethy also remains active in the Young Eagles program.

"I like to help out whenever I can. I enjoy seeing them fly for the first time and the fascination and smile they get when they step off the plane," he said. *"Young Eagles is a great way to show that aviation is feasible."*

BRENDAN ABERNETHY

Young Eagle 1315787



EAA 1041757





BRAD BATESOL

Young Eagle 773663



EAA 1031521

In 2002, Brad Batesol became a Young Eagle.

"I remember being the lucky one. There were three of us that flew in the airplane, but I was the one who got to sit in the copilot seat and actually fly the plane," Batesol said.

Afterward, he stayed connected by attending air shows, talking to pilots, and spending time at the local airport.

"I also was involved in model aviation, which helped keep my interest and stay in the spirit of aviation," he said.

Batesol soloed in July 2009 and earned his private pilot certificate in July 2010.

Batesol, 24, enjoys running his own Web development and graphic design company, while flying on his own schedule.

"After talking with various commercial pilots, I realized I don't want to turn my hobby into a job. It probably would be great, but right now I like where I'm at. It's nice to fly on my own time," he said.

Although Batesol no longer wants to be a commercial pilot, he has a new goal in mind to remain active in the aviation industry.

"My new goal is to become a certified flight instructor. It would fulfill my need to be employed in the aviation industry, while being able to give back on a one-on-one level to those involved in the aviation industry," Batesol said.

Because Batesol had the opportunity to fly through the Young Eagles program, he offers good advice for those in similar situations.

"Never give up on your dream. Keep your focus and get involved with anything you can," he said.

At the next local Young Eagles rally near Batesol's hometown of Fullerton, California, he hopes to fly his own Young Eagles.

"I am signed up to be a Young Eagles pilot because it gives me the opportunity to give back to what was influential to my start," he said. "I'm glad to be a part of it because it was exciting for me as a kid and makes me excited to share that excitement with future Young Eagles."

Young Eagle Greg Bradbury grew up just down the street from an airport, the same airport where he discovered the Young Eagles program through Chris St. Germain (EAA 443948).

"I remember flying at the airport right down the street and being able to see all of the sights, like the amusement parks, the buildings downtown, and the racetrack. I had visited all the sights, but to fly over them is neat," Bradbury said.

St. Germain also sponsored Bradbury on two trips to the EAA Air Academy. It was during his trips that he met Justin Letempt, friend and future classmate.

Bradbury, 23, has had a love for aviation for as long as he can remember. Part of his love comes from the feeling you get when you go flying. He calls it an indescribable feeling.

"It was nice having the airport right down the street. My parents would take me down regularly to watch the airplanes take off and land. We would sit in the parking lot near the end of the runway. It's something I still do today when I have time," he said.

In the fall of 2006, Bradbury soloed, and the following spring he earned his private pilot certificate.

GREG BRADBURY

Young Eagle 416400

"I would like to get my commercial license to get paid to fly people around," he said. *"I always wanted to pursue aviation as a career because I knew it wouldn't be a job. My parents always told me to find something I love to do so it's not work."*

Bradbury strongly encourages other Young Eagles to save money and get their private pilot certificate in one summer rather than over a ten-month period.

"If you want to be a pilot, stick with it, find extra money and don't get discouraged," Bradbury said.

"I would really like to become a Marine aviator and make a career out of it," Bradbury said. *"Then, I would like to retire somewhere nice and fly helicopters for sight seeing tours, like the Grand Canyon or the Florida Everglades."*



BRENT BUTLER

Young Eagle 1366980



Brent Butler found his passion for aviation at a young age. His first ride in an airplane was at 13. He went up with a family friend, who had been a pilot during the Korean War.

"He got me really excited and basically hooked on aviation," Butler said.

While helping at a Young Eagles event with the Civil Air Patrol, he found out about the opportunity to participate in the Young Eagles program. Butler's Young Eagles flight was in a Mooney.

"The flight was awesome. I'd flown some before then, but never in a Mooney. It was a lot faster and the pilot was very excited. I was really amazed by the speed compared to what I had been in before," he said.

In 2006, Butler's dad drove him to the airport as he took flight lessons because he didn't yet have his driver's license. On January 21, 2007, he earned his private pilot certificate in a Cessna 172 at age 17.

After high school, Butler attended Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, majoring in aeronautical science. It was there that he earned his instrument rating in 2008. Butler transferred to West Virginia University, where he recently graduated with a degree in international studies. In the coming weeks, Butler hopes to become a certified flight instructor and will be a flight instructor at Aphelion Aviation.

"My career goal is to fly for U.S. Customs and Border Protection. My dream job would be to become a Red Bull Air Race pilot," Butler said.

Currently serving as president of the Morgantown Pilot's Association, Butler volunteers at Young Eagles events. In the future, Butler hopes to fly Young Eagles because he still vividly recalls the impact that flight had on him.

Butler, 21, of Accident, Maryland, currently flies with the Clarksburg Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol. He finds this organization to be extremely rewarding.

Stephen Coble discovered the Young Eagles program at an air show at Elkhart Municipal Airport in Elkhart, Indiana. In 2001, Coble became a Young Eagle in a Cessna 172.

"I remember being able to actually fly the plane and watching the pilot take his hands off of the controls," he said of his first flight. "The pilot let me fly by myself and take some turns. It was amazing and one of the best experiences of my life."

Although it wasn't the first time in an airplane, it was Coble's first time in a cockpit with a pilot. After his Young Eagles flight, Coble discovered his love for aviation.

"After a few years of waiting, I became interested in joining the Air Force and applied for the Air Force Academy," Coble said.

Coble, 18, recently graduated from Edwardsburg High School in Michigan. He plans on attending Manchester Community College.

STEPHEN COBLE

Young Eagles 702879

In the fall, Coble will begin working toward a degree in engineering. After college, Coble hopes to join the Air Force or fly with the Marines.

"Aviation has always felt like my place to be; it feels right," he said.

Although he has not had the opportunity to solo, he has hopes to in the future. Coble is considering also working toward his private pilot certificate and additional ratings once college begins. He offers similar advice to other aviation enthusiasts.

"Pursue your dreams. Go after what you want with all of your heart," Coble said.





DAVID FATELL

Young Eagle 873160



EAA 863964

David Fatell discovered the Young Eagles program through an article in the newspaper. He remembers the most amazing part of the Young Eagles flight was how generous pilots were to offer free flights to the next generation. He also has fond memories of his first flight in a small aircraft.

"It was awesome. We flew out of a small airfield with trees on both ends of the runway, so for me takeoff and landing were the best part," Fatell said.

After completing his Young Eagles flight, Fatell made a deal with his father. The deal was that he would earn his black belt in karate, if he could start flight lessons after.

"I love the freedom of flight and knowing you're suspended in air. It's great to see the world in a whole new dimension. I know I want to be a pilot because I want a job I will look forward to going to everyday," Fatell said.

Fatell soloed on his 16th birthday and passed his private pilot checkride on January 8, 2011. Fatell is currently working on his commercial certificate and hopes to become a certified flight instructor, a certified flight instrument instructor, and a multiengine instructor in the next year.

This fall, Fatell will be a senior at Goodrich High School in Goodrich, Michigan. He plans to attend Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida, and major in aeronautical science.

Fatell also is giving back to the Young Eagles program.

"A few weeks ago, I flew eight Young Eagles kids at the same airport I took my first Young Eagles flight at," he said. *"It was great to be able to share the experience of flight with them and give back to the program."*

In the future, Fatell hopes to start flying for a major airline, but knows that he will likely have to start at a regional airport first. He also offers advice for Young Eagles such as himself: *"Do what you love and follow your dreams."*

Jack Foersterling discovered his love for flight when he went on a camping trip with his Boy Scout Troop at Galt Airport in Greenwood, Illinois. During their camping trip, they had the opportunity to take a Young Eagles flight.

He took his Young Eagles flight in October 2005 in a Cessna.

"Flying around Lake Geneva was amazing. I got to see the lake from a whole new angle," he said. "It's something I will never forget."

Although Foersterling is only 16, he hopes to make aviation a career in the future.

"My grandpa was a commercial pilot, so aviation truly interests me," he said. "I have a love for aviation and hope to make a career out of flying planes. I just want to follow my dreams and do what I love to do."

In order to continue his involvement, he had the opportunity to attend EAA Air Academy in 2009 and 2010 on a scholarship he received from EAA Chapter 932 for an essay he wrote about his grandfather.

This year, Foersterling gave back to the Young Eagles program by organizing an Aviation Day in conjunction with Learn to Fly Day.

JACK FOERSTERLING

Young Eagle 1229632



EAA 1044906

For his Eagle Scout project, he invited children from the Boys and Girls Club of Lake County to Galt Airport for the opportunity to build balsa wood gliders, use a flight simulator, and attend a question and answer session with an aircraft mechanic. The kids also had the opportunity to see whose gliders would fly the farthest. The highlight of the day for the Boys and Girls Club of Lake County was without a doubt their Young Eagles flights. Foersterling organized the event and hopes to continue it annually.

"It was great giving back to the program and being able to share aviation with children who might not get to see it otherwise," Foersterling said.

Foersterling, of North Barrington, Illinois, offers advice to those who have a passion for flight.

"If you have a love for it, pursue it and never ever give up."



SEAN FOLEY

Young Eagle 575251



Aviation has been a part of Young Eagle Sean Foley's life for as long as he can recall. Because of his passion for aviation, his friend and fellow Young Eagle, Derrick Hight, informed him about the opportunity to fly on a somewhat regular basis at the airport near their hometown in Sugar Grove, Illinois, with the Young Eagles program.

"The thing I remember about the flight in general was taking off. The first flight I can actually remember was the Young Eagles. As soon as we left the ground, it was the most memorable experience I've had. I don't recall experiencing anything like it before then," Foley said.

After his Young Eagles flight, Foley worked to remain active in aviation. He found a summer job working at Hinckley Airport in Hinckley, Illinois.

"I knew I was passionate about aviation and it was something I loved doing, so I wanted to make a career of it. I could never really think of anything else for me to pursue," Foley said.

Foley soloed on October 20, 2005, in a Piper Warrior III. Five months later, he earned his private pilot certificate. He also obtained his instrument rating, as well as his commercial pilot certificate for both multi- and single-engine. Foley is also a certified flight instructor, certified flight instrument instructor, and multiengine instructor.

Foley graduated in 2008 from Arizona State University, with a major in aviation technology—professional flight. In August 2010, Foley was hired as an airline pilot for Air Wisconsin, a regional carrier for US Airways.

Foley, 25, is currently living in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Because of the difficulties he experienced, he offers advice to those in similar situations.

"It gets really tough, but stick with it because it's worth it," he said. *"You don't really understand the challenges or receive the full value until after you make it."*

Melissa Grabiec became a Young Eagle on a flight with Charles Boos (EAA 68966) in his green Citabria.

"What was a green aircraft doing on the field?" she recalls from her first flight. "Then I remember we flew with the window open and the wind in my face. My second flight was special because it was a hot summer day and the aircraft had air conditioning, which was unusual to me."

Grabiec continued her involvement with Young Eagles by greeting guests, printing certificates, and helping the ground crew at chapter events.

"It was fun; the world's a big place and you can see it from the sky. I had privileged access to planes and my dad's friends, which fostered my interest and the knowledge I wanted to gain," Grabiec said of her flight time.

Grabiec soloed in 2007 and earned her private pilot certificate the following summer. She also holds a restricted commercial certificate, tailwheel endorsement, and single-engine seaplane rating.

Giving back and volunteering rank high on Grabiec's list of priorities. She is currently serving as secretary for EAA Chapter 133 (Pompano

Beach, Florida), and started a Women in Aviation Chapter in Fort Lauderdale.

"Giving back is just something you do. I have the opportunity to give people the same experience I had, especially since aviation is a privileged hobby. By sharing my time and experience, I can show that aviation is achievable for any background if you just believe," she said.

Besides various chapter activities, Grabiec also finds time to fly her own Young Eagles. Since becoming a Young Eagles pilot, she has flown three Young Eagles.

"My first Young Eagle was a tiny girl, who could barely see out of the aircraft. I had a cushion for her. After I finished explaining everything, we took off and came over the shoreline. I remember her saying, 'Miss Melissa, the world is so big,' which is true. We're so tiny in the scheme of things," Grabiec said.

MELISSA GRABIEC

Young Eagle 30436



EAA 846828



Young Eagle Pilot 47859





BRIAN GRYGO

Young Eagle 755102

Brian Grygo, 26, vividly remembers his Young Eagles flight. He was introduced to the experience by his neighbor and EAA member, Paul Giannobile (EAA 129800). Although Grygo has always had an interest in aviation, it was the Young Eagles flight that confirmed his passion.

"Mr. Giannobile's flight was awesome. It was the first time I had influence over an aircraft. I had the chance to sit beside him and actively participate. I could fly where I wanted and go where I wanted to go. It was one of the coolest experiences ever," Grygo said.

He remembers being awed by the freedom people had while cruising the skies. The flight affirmed his interest to pursue an aviation career.

"It is one of those things. It seems like I just always wanted to do it and then I got hooked," he said.

After high school, Grygo attended Ohio State University. He majored in aeronautical and astronautical engineering. At Ohio State, he was also involved in ROTC with a path to the Marine Corps. During his junior year of college, Grygo received his flight contract from the Marines. He graduated from Ohio State University in 2008.

Grygo soloed on March 25, 2009, in a Cessna 172. He has also soloed two military aircraft, including the T-34C and the T-45C. At the close of his training, he hopes to receive all of his additional ratings from the Marines.

He is currently a student naval aviator in Training Squadron 9. Grygo expects to earn his wings in the coming months and become a naval aviator and be placed in one of three locations with the Marines.

Eventually, Grygo has hopes to pay it forward to the Young Eagles program, which has given him so much. For now, he offers advice to current and future Young Eagles.

"If flying is your passion, go full throttle. Don't hesitate or let anyone talk you out of it," he said. *"If you work for it and go after it, there is no reason you can't achieve your dream."*

Andrew Gunderson has loved flight for as long as he can remember, which is why he jumped at the opportunity to take his Young Eagles flight at the Fond du Lac (Wisconsin) Airport.

"I always loved flight, but since I had no family members interested in flying to get me started, I kind of got into it by myself by flying R/C airplanes. Once I took my Young Eagles flight, I knew right then and there that I just had to get my private certificate," he said.

Following his Young Eagles flight, Gunderson quickly enrolled in the free Sporty's Ground School course. He soon realized he could actually get his certificate after he passed the written test his junior year.

"I am happy to say I was also the recipient of the new Harrison Ford Scholarship, which paid for all of my flight training," Gunderson said.

Gunderson soloed on August 4, 2010, in an Ercoupe followed by a Cessna 152. On May 24, 2011, he earned his private pilot certificate in a Cessna 152. In the future, he hopes to obtain his complex endorsement, as well as an instrument rating.

This fall, Gunderson will be a freshman at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. The recent Fond du Lac High School graduate hopes to

major in engineering with a mechanical focus. After college, he is considering going on to graduate school at Purdue University to focus on aeronautical engineering. Although Gunderson isn't sure whether or not he will go for his commercial certificate, he is sure aviation is going to be a part of his future.

As a past Young Eagle and scholarship recipient, Gunderson feels it is important to give back to the program. In the fall, he hopes to help as part of the ground crew. During AirVenture, Gunderson can also be found parking airplanes at the Fond du Lac Airport, something he has done for the past three summers.

Gunderson would like to encourage fellow Young Eagles to apply for scholarships, study their ground school course, and keep trying to find a way to enroll in flight lessons.

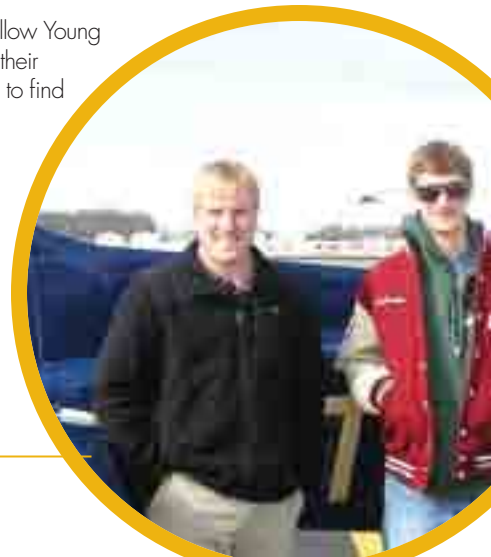
"If not for this program, I would never have had the opportunity to fulfill my aviation dreams," he said.

ANDREW GUNDERSON

Young Eagle 1513609



EAA 1039015





BILLY JANUS

Young Eagle 1319582



EAA 828645

Billy Janus of Belchertown, Massachusetts, vividly remembers his first real airplane experience. At an air show, Janus was offered a ride by Sean D. Tucker. His first ride was in an Extra 300L at the Wings Over Pittsburg air show.

"Flying is the greatest experience I have ever had," he said. "Watching the wheels lift off the runway is like magic and I never want to stop. I always want to fly."

He soloed on September 6, 2009, in a Cessna 150. He remembers thinking, "Look at me, I'm 16 and I can fly."

On January 29, 2011, Janus earned his private pilot certificate. This year, he hopes to obtain his instrument, tailwheel, and high-performance ratings before going to college this fall at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Janus will major in aeronautical science so he can continue his passion for flying.

In order to remain active in the aviation industry, he maintains three aviation-related jobs. He is currently crew chief at Pioneer Valley Hot

Air Balloon, as well as part of the ground crew at Shamrock Aviation in North Adams, Massachusetts. He also works at North American Restorations, where he participates in restoring vintage aircraft.

Janus is an Aviation Explorer and organized an Aviation Day for his Eagle Scout service project by bringing a group of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampshire County to learn about aviation. At the event, the children received a safety briefing, flew R/C airplanes, launched soda bottle rockets, and flew gliders made out of foam plates. All of the activities were planned to share how airplanes can fly and the importance of aviation with a new group of people.

"Aviation is a disease: once you catch it, you can't get rid of it," Janus said.

Janus encourages those interested in aviation to get involved.

"Get out to the airport and volunteer," he said. "The Young Eagles program is a great thing to get involved in. It gives kids the opportunity to sit in airplanes and achieve things you didn't know were possible."

"Always keep working toward your dream," Lt. Mark Heussner said.

Heussner discovered his passion for flight on his way to Walt Disney World in an airliner. After the trip, he became involved in an aviation club at his high school in Wheeling, Illinois. He was first introduced to the Young Eagles program on a trip to Oshkosh with the aviation club.

"I was really excited about getting to actually fly, put my hands on the controls and maneuver the aircraft," Heussner said. *"I remember thinking, 'Holy cow, I'm flying.'"*

During high school, Heussner became involved in any aviation-oriented events he could. He began to look at the opportunity to obtain his pilot certificate through the Coast Guard.

"I have always wanted to pursue a career in aviation. For me, it was the feeling of being in the air and seeing everything from a new viewpoint," he said.

Heussner graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 2003 and earned his pilot certificate in May 2006. He holds several additional ratings including single-engine instrument and instrument for rotorcraft.

In the future, Heussner hopes to become involved in the Young Eagles program again, but now as a pilot.

MARK HEUSSNER

Young Eagle 253176

"I think it would be fun to work with kids and teach them about flight and being a pilot," he said.

Now based in Kodiak, Alaska, Heussner is an aircraft commander of an MH Jayhawk helicopter rescue crew with the U.S. Coast Guard. In February, he took part in the rescue of five fishermen near the base.

"Somehow the vessel had been set onto the rocks and driven ashore by the wind and waves," Heussner said. *"It was the middle of the night. The winds were blowing towards the cliffs at 50 or 60 knots."*

All five fishermen were safely brought to shore. This rescue brought the crew's total to 14 fishermen saved in a span of two weeks.

"In the Coast Guard, being a search and rescue pilot has many rewards. The feeling and joy of saving lives is a very awesome feeling," Heussner said.





DERRICK HIGHT

Young Eagle 143776

Derrick Hight had his first ride in an aircraft when he was 8 years old and has been fascinated by aviation since. Hight had the opportunity to fly with his grandpa's neighbor, Alan Shackleton (EAA 189346). He would spend countless hours with Shackleton at Aurora Airport.

"The one thing that stood out to me about the Young Eagles program was that everybody was so happy and it was such a positive experience. The kids would walk away glowing, and the pilots were there because they wanted to be," Hight said.

Hight went on as many Young Eagles flights as he could for years. He remembers marking the Young Eagles flight days on the calendar and watching for the date as it neared. He also attended and volunteered at air shows to remain active in aviation.

At a young age, Hight also found an interest in flight simulation games and aviation books. Because of his background in flight, he also became interested in hang gliding and skydiving.

On October 1, 2010, Hight soloed in a Cessna 172. This March, He earned his private pilot certificate at age 25. Hight hopes to obtain additional ratings in the future, but is unsure of his next step. He is currently considering beginning aerobatic training. One thing he is sure of is that he needs to be flying.

"Flying gives me the feeling of being in a whole separate world. I feel so relaxed and free from everything," he said.

Hight, 25, is currently serving as a police officer for the Aurora Police Department in Aurora, Illinois. He hopes to take on a career in aviation someday in the future.

"I love aviation more than I thought possible," he said. *"I wish I would have followed my gut. I am hoping to retire when I am 41 to begin my career as a pilot. For Young Eagles, just follow your dream. If you want something, just work hard and follow your instincts."*

Ashley Julka discovered the Young Eagles program while participating in an educational program in middle school that taught area youth about aviation. Julka vividly recalls sitting in a classroom with eight of her classmates as they discussed aviation and made balsa wood airplanes. She went for her first flight at age 11.

"I remember the takeoff was more exciting than on a traditional airliner. It was mind-boggling to be able to see Oshkosh and the surrounding areas in a whole new way. I think my favorite part was seeing that the fields looked like patchwork quilts from above. It was also my first time in a small aircraft," Julka said.

Julka, of Rosendale, Wisconsin, recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, where she majored in marketing communications with a minor in journalism. Although she is not currently in flight training, she found a unique way to stay involved in aviation.

She is currently serving as the EAA Chapters/Young Eagles intern. As part of her internship, Julka is responsible for organizing the EAA Innovation Center, supported by GE, which will be home to many electric aircraft at AirVenture. Julka has been busy on the phone speaking with exhibitors and forum presenters to get ready for the big

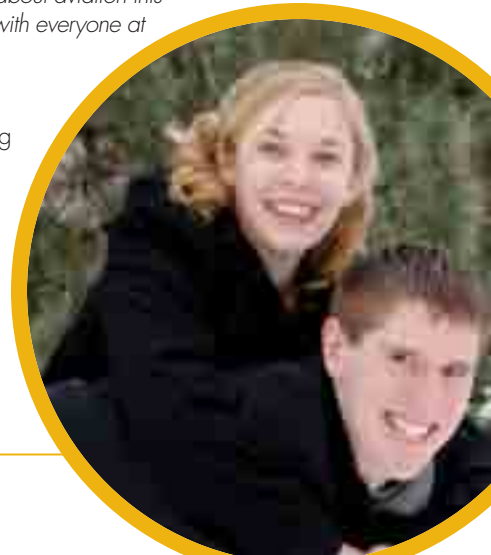
event. In addition, she interviewed and prepared biographies for the Young Eagles Yearbook and is assisting in the Learn to Fly Center with the scheduling of forum presentations.

"I haven't been actively involved in aviation, but it certainly has my interest now. I find it amazing to work in the industry because there is so much to learn. It was a great opportunity to interview all of the Young Eagles because it gave me the chance to become familiar with aviation-related terms, which can be carried over into other areas of my job. I truly appreciate how understanding all of the vendors and Young Eagles have been as I learned about aviation this summer and look forward to working with everyone at AirVenture," she said.

Julka has enjoyed working at EAA this summer. In August, she will marry Young Eagle 919171, Jonathan Curtis. The couple will reside in Houghton, Michigan, while Curtis finishes his degree in physics and astrophysics at Michigan Technological University.

ASHLEY JULKA

Young Eagle 695494





ADAM LAUDERBACK

Young Eagle 1043424 ★ EAA 748948

Adam Lauderback of Makanda, Illinois, has fond memories of his Young Eagles flight. He flew with John Durbin (EAA 388479) in a Cessna 172 on February 28, 2004.

"The flight was awesome. It was the reason I kept coming back. John is an awesome guy and very well experienced. He had the patience to answer my questions," the 22-year-old said.

"John and Sue [Durbin] were the catalyst for my interest in aviation," he said.

After his Young Eagles flight, Lauderback attended the EAA Air Academy, chapter meetings, and anything related to aviation.

"I got bit by the bug," he said. *"I love it. I have a fairly mechanical mind, which is why the helicopter is my favorite machine on the planet. I love the people involved in the industry because everyone wants to talk airplanes, which is something I love to do."*

Lauderback soloed in a Cessna 172 at age 16 on July 11, 2005. He then earned his private pilot certificate on December 21, 2005, his instrument rating on April 21, 2010. He is hoping to begin his commercial training in the fall.

During his free time, Lauderback works line service, refueling aircraft at Southern Illinois Airport. He also works for Central Illinois Air in Mattoon, Illinois, which is teamed with Gateway Helicopter Tours in St. Louis, Missouri. Here it is his responsibility to help passengers get on and off the scenic helicopter tour aircraft safely.

Lauderback is a senior at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois. He is majoring in aviation technology with a specialization in helicopters. He also has a minor in aviation flight and plans to graduate in May 2012.

His advice for Young Eagles comes in the form of a quote by William Jennings Bryan: *"Destiny is no matter of chance. It is a matter of choice; it is not a thing waited for, it is a thing to be achieved."*

Young Eagle Justin Letempt has been around aviation for as long as he can remember. His dad was a helicopter pilot in the Army, which inspired him to pursue a career in aviation.

"I have always looked up to my dad. I thought it was the coolest thing in the world and there is nothing else I would rather be doing," Letempt said.

With his passion for aviation, it is no surprise that Letempt became a Young Eagle and attended the EAA Air Academy in 2003, where he met friend and future University of Central Missouri classmate Greg Bradbury.

After graduating from high school, Letempt, 23, went on to attend the University of Central Missouri. He will graduate in December 2011 with a degree in flight operations management.

While attending the university, he also began taking flight lessons to obtain his private pilot certificate and instrument rating. In February 2007, Letempt earned his private pilot certificate in a Cessna 172. In July 2008, he earned his instrument rating.

Besides attending school and taking flight lessons, Letempt completed an internship with the Philadelphia International Airport as the airport

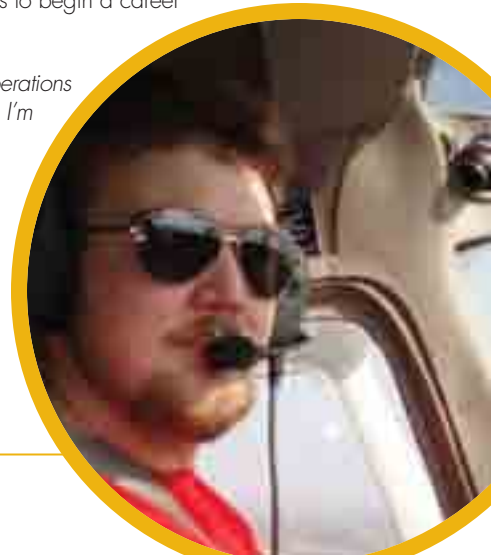
operations intern. During his internship, he worked landside operations, handling terminals and roadways, especially during safety and maintenance inspections to ensure passenger safety. Letempt also handled irregular and emergency situations at the airport and organized parking. He even had the opportunity to assist with presidential visits with Air Force One.

"My favorite part was the unexpected. You never knew what was going to happen, which made it exciting to go in to work every day," he said.

After graduation from the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, Missouri, Letempt hopes to begin a career in aviation.

"I could start career flying or airport operations or management," he said. *"As long as I'm in aviation, I'll be happy."*

JUSTIN LETEMPT
Young Eagle 944540





TRAVIS MORTON

Young Eagle 705091



EAA 846224



Young Eagle Pilot 43758

The sky's the limit for Travis Morton, who recently opened the Sonoma Valley Flying Club in Sonoma, California. Morton got his start in aviation after encouragement from his neighbors to participate in the Young Eagles program.

"I was sitting in the aircraft while the pilot talked through everything and remember thinking, 'Planes are incredibly complicated,'" he said.

Because the Sonoma Skypark offers monthly Young Eagles flights, Morton continued to come back after his first flight in 2001; however, it was his first Young Eagles flight that sparked his interest.

"I knew I wanted to be a career pilot after a few flights. So many of the Young Eagles pilots were airline pilots. I looked up to them," he said.

Morton soloed in 2007 and earned his private pilot certificate two months later. He also holds an instrument rating and single- and multiengine commercial certificates. Morton became a certified flight instructor in May 2010.

He opened the Sonoma Valley Flying Club on April 1. The Sonoma Valley Flying Club currently employs four instructors, including Morton. The club also offers sky tours and aircraft rentals. Morton plans on giving discounts to those pilots who offer Young Eagles flights.

"I opened the school because I like teaching and flying, which is why I am a flight instructor and I also like business, so I wanted to open a flight school," Morton said.

Besides running the flight school, Morton serves as president of EAA Chapter 1268 (Sonoma, California).

Morton would eventually like to fly aerobatics and will continue to be involved in the Young Eagles program. He has flown 33 Young Eagles since he became a Young Eagles pilot in November 2007.

The Sonoma area still boasts an active Young Eagles group, something Morton is proud to encourage.

"The Young Eagles program is what got me my start. I like it just as much as the kids because it gets them doing something they wouldn't normally do or have the opportunity to experience," he said.

Andrew Murphy of Lavonia, Georgia, heard about the Young Eagles program from EAA member Dick McSpadden (EAA 1561368). His Young Eagles flight in January 2010 provided some fond memories.

"It was my first time getting to fly an old World War II airplane (Navion)," Murphy said. *"It was also the first time I got to fly and sit in the front seat by the pilot."*

The Young Eagles program was not Murphy's first introduction into the aviation industry. *"Probably the first time I became interested in aviation was when I saw the Blue Angels fly at the Naval Air Museum when I was in elementary school,"* he said.

In 2010, Murphy soloed in a Cherokee 140. He is currently working toward his private pilot certificate, which he hopes to complete soon – all he has left is the checkride. In the future, he wants to earn his instrument, multiengine, certified flight instructor, and certified flight instrument instructor.

ANDREW MURPHY

Young Eagle 1561368

A recent graduate of Franklin County High School in Camesville, Georgia, he will attend Emmanuel College in Franklin Springs, Georgia, this fall where he will be running cross country and majoring in biology. When asked about the future, Murphy has many goals to share.

"One day, I would like to be a flight instructor. It is important to teach people about flying and get more people involved in aviation," Murphy said. *"After college, I'd like to join the military and become a military pilot."*

Although Murphy waited a while to obtain his private pilot certificate, he offers different advice for current Young Eagles.

"Work on your license and take the written exam as soon as you can," he said.





LOGAN ROCHON

Young Eagle 1439258



EAA 871774

Logan Rochon, who will be a junior at Oconto Falls High School in the fall, has been on three Young Eagles flights—in 2008, 2009, and 2010—and has attended four EAA Air Academy camps. He's also never missed an AirVenture in his 17 years. Rochon keeps coming back for more.

"I attended my first EAA Air Academy and liked it so much I decided to come back and do it again and again," he said. This year he's back, but instead of being a camper, he's helping teach alongside his grandfather, Jack Blosser.

The 79-year-old grandfather and 17-year-old grandson help teach metalwork, composites, and woodworking at the EAA Air Academy camps, among other duties.

After Blosser suffered a small stroke that made it difficult for the Woodruff, Wisconsin, man to walk distances and sometimes to come up with the right words, Rochon decided to go to camp and help his grandfather.

"I enjoy spending time with him," Rochon said. *"He knows a lot and he can teach me so much."*

While this is the first time they worked together at the Air Academy, it isn't the first time they've been there together. Blosser has volunteered 27 years in the Air Academy's workshops, and throughout the years he has had eight grandchildren go through the aviation camps.

Rochon says EAA's Air Academy is a good chance to meet people and develop friendships that last because of similar interests.

"I still keep in contact with some of the people I've met at the camps," he said. *"I've learned to never say 'goodbye,' but rather, 'see you later,' since you never know when you will see someone again."*

Once he graduates from high school, Rochon is considering being an airline or other pilot. *"But whatever I choose, I will stay in the aviation field,"* he said.

Growing up, Trevor Rzucidlo of Dayville, Connecticut, knew he wanted to be a pilot someday, which is why when he heard about the opportunity to fly with the Young Eagles program, he didn't skip a beat. At 16, Rzucidlo took his first Young Eagles flight with Tom Malek [EAA 469713].

"I remember the takeoff and the landing and thinking it was cool and I wanted to learn how to fly. I also knew I wasn't ready for the flight to end," he said.

A month after his Young Eagles flight, Rzucidlo was enrolled in flight lessons and six months later had soloed a PA 28-161 Warrior. Seven months later, he earned his private pilot certificate.

"I always knew I wanted to be a pilot," Rzucidlo said. *"I always spoke with my uncle on the phone about flying. My uncle, who was a pilot, lived in New Zealand. He passed away a few months after I took my first lesson. Flying is a great way to pay tribute to his life."*

Rzucidlo also carries a tailwheel endorsement and hopes to obtain his instrument rating and commercial certificate in the future.

His favorite memory of flying came last year during AirVenture when he and his father (a student pilot) flew a Cessna 150 from Connecticut to Oshkosh.

Rzucidlo, 21, attends the University of Connecticut in Storrs, Connecticut, majoring in public policy and geography. Rzucidlo is working as an intern at EAA this summer. He can be found answering membership-related questions about renewals and flights in the call center.

"I enjoy being able to include aviation and aviation-related learning directly in my work. I also enjoy being in the environment of EAA," Rzucidlo said of his internship.

Rzucidlo can also be found flying Young Eagles in his Cessna 150. He flew his first Young Eagles in February 2010 and has flown five Young Eagles to date.

"Being a Young Eagle pilot is important because it's what got me started and provides a dimension of the world most kids never see and I believe everyone should experience," he said.

TREVOR RZUCIDLO

Young Eagle 1663243



EAA 1002470



Young Eagle Pilot 46358





NICK SCHAEFFER

Young Eagle 153586



EAA 508770

Flying with his grandfather is the most memorable experience in the sky for Young Eagle Nicholas Schaeffer. Schaeffer was enrolled in the Young Eagles program at the age of 11.

"The most memorable thing is simply having the ability to be able to fly and be suspended in the air. At a young age, it's like magic. You don't understand the physics of it, but it's an awesome feeling," Schaeffer said.

"When the wheel first came off the ground, it was a profound moment for me."

Surrounding himself with aviation, Schaeffer's passion for flying only grew. He continued flying with his grandfather and became involved in model rockets. After high school, Schaeffer attended community college to work on obtaining his private pilot certificate. During this time, he joined the New Jersey Air National Guard as an F-16 Crew Chief. This opportunity let him gain military aviation experience.

In November 2002, at age 18, Schaeffer soloed in a Cessna 152. In January 2003, he earned his private pilot certificate. He is currently

working on his commercial and instrument ratings, while flying as a pilot trainee in the U.S. Air Force.

Schaeffer knew from a young age that he wanted to pursue a career in aviation because the moment of takeoff never gets old.

"You know you love something. I enjoy the work that goes into it and the fact that it never feels like work. That really sealed the deal for me. I knew I liked it and it stemmed from my Young Eagles flight and grew even further after I received my license," Schaeffer said.

Flying is a big part of Schaeffer's life, but his best flying experience happened last year when Young Eagles and Young Eagle pilot reversed their roles.

"In December, I had the opportunity to take my grandfather flying," Schaeffer said. *"He still loves aviation, but he's not medically qualified to fly and for me to be the one to take him up from a Young Eagles perspective is like everything coming full circle."*

Erik Schillo, 33, does not care what time of day or the conditions; he simply loves to fly.

"It could be 2 a.m. on a snowy, winter morning heading out for a five-hour trip. It still puts a smile on my face every time I push the throttle forward. I just love to fly," Schillo said.

Schillo became a Young Eagle in 1992 with pilot Bob Veiock (EAA 413118), who also happened to be his dad's childhood friend. The duo flew with Schillo's father, Glenn, to enjoy breakfast.

"I still remember Bob turning around and telling my dad, 'This kid's a natural.' It stuck with me. I took it to heart and kept it with me through the years," he said.

Growing up, Schillo surrounded himself with aviation. He was constantly reading aviation magazines and flying model airplanes. His grandfather was the aviation manager for Heinz, which allowed him to be around aviation as much as he wanted.

He attended Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Arizona, where he majored in aeronautical science. During his freshman year in

1997, he earned his private pilot certificate. After his freshman year, Schillo transferred to Kent State University in Ohio, where he majored in aeronautical engineering. He also holds an instrument rating and commercial certificate.

While attending Kent State University, Schillo enlisted in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard with the 171st Air Refueling Wing. Schillo served as crew chief. He is still an active member of the guard, where he has been flying KC-135s since 2004.

Schillo hopes to get back into the Young Eagles program and give flights to his own two children, as well as other Young Eagles.

"Bob Veiock always had an interest in my interest in aviation," Schillo said. *"He was always there to encourage me. I hope to do the same in the future."*

ERIK SCHILLO
Young Eagle 1618604





AUSTIN SEEVERS

Young Eagle 628859



EAA 864828

Austin Seevers of Decatur, Illinois, found out about the Young Eagles program when he attended the EAA Chapter 274 pancake and sausage breakfast in September 2000. It was at the breakfast that he had the opportunity become a Young Eagle with pilot Richard Sharp (EAA 394610) in a Cessna 182.

"It was my first time being right up front and flying an airplane," he said. "I have always been interested in aviation, but after the breakfast, it sealed the deal."

He continued to attend EAA Chapter 274's (Decatur, Illinois) annual pancake breakfast and chili supper in order to participate in Young Eagles flights. He remains active in the chapter by helping coordinate Young Eagles flights and the annual breakfast and chili supper.

At age 18, Seevers soloed in a Cessna 172 on June 24, 2008, and passed his checkride that August. He went on to earn his instrument rating in the summer of 2009, followed by his commercial certificate

in the spring of 2010. He became a certified flight instructor last fall and earned his multiengine and certified flight instrument instructor certificates in the spring of 2011.

Seevers, 21, now spends his time as a part-time flight instructor at the University of Illinois, where he is also a full-time student. At the University of Illinois, Seevers is majoring in aviation human factors. He continues to give back to the chapter by helping on ground crew, giving tower tours and aircraft tours. He feels it is important to give back to the chapter that supported him.

"They gave me the Train-a-Pilot Scholarship, which allowed me to get my private pilot license," he said.

Seevers speaks highly of every moment spent in the air.

"The moment the wheels leave the ground, nothing compares to it," he said. "Aviation is expensive, but it definitely pays off when the wheels lift off. It's not about the cost as long as you enjoy it and the ride."

Glen Singleton of San Antonio, Texas, learned about the Young Eagles program from a family friend, who told him about a local EAA chapter giving airplane rides to kids.

"I enjoyed the feeling of leaving Earth and got bit by the bug. I felt almost like a bird with a feeling of freedom, while everything else is behind you and you get to explore the whole countryside," Singleton said of his Young Eagles flight. *"I was intrigued by the gauges, switches, and controls. I knew then and there that I wanted to be a pilot."*

Singleton has been involved in aviation on and off his whole life. In high school, he was involved in Civil Air Patrol, which gave him guidance on paths to take in the future. He served in the Army for three years as a multiple launch rocket systems crew member. While he was at basic training, aviation got put on the back burner.

After his discharge, Singleton worked various jobs and ran his own lawn care business. While running his business, he found out about the accelerated aviation programs offered by American Flyers Flight School, where he began his work on a private pilot certificate and instrument rating.

Singleton soloed in a Cessna 172 on October 26, 2007, at the age of 32. One month later, he earned his private pilot certificate.

GLEN SINGLETON

Young Eagle 55881

He had to leave the American Flyers Flight School before completing his instrument rating, but hopes to earn it and his multiengine rating in the future. He also hopes to become a certified flight instructor and certified flight instrument instructor.

Singleton, 35, is going back to school this fall to work toward those ratings. He is enrolled in the professional pilot program at Palo Alto College in San Antonio, Texas. Singleton is proof that obstacles occur, but a dream is never out of reach.

"Encourage your parents to become involved early. Do whatever you can and stay focused on your goal. Start saving money and finding jobs to start flying. Get involved. I became involved in the Young Eagles program and Civil Air Patrol, which gave me guidance on career paths to take. Never give up," Singleton said.





MICHELLE TYRLIK

Young Eagle 643395



EAA 847680

"Find out what you're passionate about and never stop pursuing it. Whatever it is you love, dedicate your life to achieving it," Michelle Tyrlik said.

When she was 12, she had the opportunity to fly as a Young Eagle.

During the flight, she recalls experiencing the feeling of three-dimensional freedom in motion. Tyrlik also had a breakthrough moment on the flight.

"I knew after the Young Eagles flight that flight isn't something that is out of reach. It has been something that has fascinated me and driven the course of my life," Tyrlik said.

Tyrlik attended the University of Central Florida (UCF) in Orlando, where she majored in aerospace engineering. While in college, Tyrlik found time to take flight lessons and in April 2008, she soloed in a Cessna 172 at age 19.

Tyrlik, now 23, graduated from UCF in December 2010 and is currently working on her private pilot certificate with only her checkride

remaining. Tyrlik is also employed at Lockheed Martin as a flight control and systems engineer in Patuxent River, Maryland.

"I enjoy working at an airport and finding out how all the systems mingle and come together to make a consistent and precise level of flight performance possible," she said.

"Flight is exploratory. It is going beyond yourself, surpassing the variables and discovering what hasn't been done before. Flight is a frontier," she said.

Tyrlik hopes to continue her flight training to include aerobatics, instrument rating, and her commercial certificate. She would like to do as much as she can without overwhelming herself.

Because of her experiences with Young Eagles, Tyrlik also finds herself giving back to the program by assisting on the ground crew.

"Young Eagles is a vital program. Every hour spent encouraging and mentoring students like me keeps the passion for aviation alive and flourishing," Tyrlik said. "The child you fly today just might, in a decade or so, be building the aircraft of tomorrow."

Steve Valbracht, 28, got bit by the aviation bug on his Young Eagles flight in 1998.

"I remember being amazed that I could go up, fly, and see everything. I was also impressed with all of the buttons the pilot got to push," Valbracht said.

As a child, Valbracht dreamed of finding a job that allowed him to hit a lot of buttons, which is one of the initial reasons aviation drew him in.

"I just knew that's what I wanted to do. The whole Young Eagles experience gives you an additional lift and soon the only thing I could think of was when I could fly again," he said.

Because of his love for aviation, his mother signed him up for flight lessons.

"For the longest time, I didn't do anything about my love for aviation. I just dreamed about it until my mom signed me up to begin flight lessons," he said.

At 16, he soloed in a Piper Cherokee and passed his checkride at 17. He is the co-owner of Midland Aircraft and the airport manager

for Marshalltown Municipal Airport in Marshalltown, Iowa. He has his commercial, seaplane, and instrument ratings.

Valbracht is again participating in the Young Eagles program, but this time as a pilot. He feels it is important to give back.

"The Young Eagles program gave me a career. If I didn't have the opportunity to fly with Young Eagles, I wouldn't be doing what I am doing now. I am so grateful for the program," Valbracht said.

His favorite part of flying, besides pushing buttons, is the travel. He enjoys seeing other parts of the country and how people live differently there. He encourages current and future Young Eagles to get involved.

"Get involved. Get to an airport and meet the people there. Make an effort; many times people are more than willing to help you out," he said.

STEVE VALBRACHT
Young Eagle 394003





JOSHUA WATERS

Young Eagle 936829



EAA 1044932

Josh Waters began flying with dad, Dwayne Waters, at the Merritt Island Airport in Florida when he was only 3 years old.

"My dad got his pilot license at 15. I've loved aviation since day one. I've always been around it, loved it, and wanted to be a pilot," Waters said.

Waters went on his first Young Eaglesflight in an RV-6 when he was 8 years old. Since then, he has also had the opportunity to fly in a friend's Cessna 172, as well as a Piper Colt. Waters and his father are currently working on restoring a Piper Pacer.

Last year, Waters soloed on his 16th birthday, first in his uncle's Piper Colt and then his friend's Cessna 172. He vividly remembers his solo flight on July 20, 2010.

"My dad, uncle, brother, and two best friends were there watching me. Dad flew the pattern with me twice and then said, 'Go fly.' I remember it was a busy day with five aircraft in the traffic pattern. I was even featured on the evening news," Waters said. *"Afterward,*

I got out of the airplane and the first person I went to was my dad. I asked him how it looks. He said, with a big smile, 'It looked great,' and we hugged each other. It was a great father/son moment."

Waters is scheduled for his private pilot checkride on July 20, 2011. He is currently a senior at Merritt Island High School with the hopes of attending college to fly and earn all of his ratings.

"I would like to be an airline pilot one day," he said.

Through a partnership with Sporty's Pilot Shops, Young Eagles can take Sporty's Online Complete Pilot Training Course online and free of charge.

"Through Sporty's, I qualified to use ground school training to take the written test. I am grateful to EAA and Sporty's for helping me," he said.

Karina Wolter of Clovis, California, recently discovered her passion for aviation. She went on her Young Eagles flight in March of 2010 after hearing about the opportunity to fly from a family friend.

"It was amazing. It was my first time in a small aircraft and sitting in the copilot seat. It was awesome to be up in the air and feel the turbulence you don't feel on airliners," Wolter said.

EAA members Bruce (EAA 779966) and Geneva (EAA 866298) McJunkin pulled Wolter aside to inform her that they were going to give her a scholarship to fly.

As a child, Wolter had hopes of flying fighter jets, but her dreams have since taken a new path.

With the help of the McJunkins, Wolter soloed in June 2010 at 17 in a Piper Cherokee. Five months later, she earned her private pilot certificate in the same aircraft. Wolter, a recent high school graduate, plans on attending LeTourneau University in Longview, Texas. In the fall, she will begin working toward a degree in professional flight.

"After my Young Eagles flight I knew I wanted to pursue aviation as a career. I myself couldn't afford to have my own plane, but a career in aviation would allow me to fly all the time and love what I do," she said.

KATRINA WOLTER

Young Eagle 1563806



EAA 1047000

While at LeTourneau University, Wolter will work to earn her commercial, instrument, and wide array of additional ratings. She one day hopes to give back to the Young Eagles program.

"I hope to help out with Young Eagles. Young Eagles has done so much for me and I would enjoy helping others become involved in aviation and share my passion," Wolter said.

Because of her Young Eagles experience, she offers advice for those like her.

"If you are interested in aviation, keep flying with Young Eagles because that's how people take notice of you and you never know what could happen after that," she said.





AARON ZEATLOW

Young Eagle 1090670

Past Young Eagle and current EAA member services intern Aaron Zeatlow discovered the Young Eagles program on a visit to the EAA AirVenture Museum. On that day, they were offering Young Eagles flights at Pioneer Airport and Zeatlow jumped at the opportunity.

"I remember flying with the door open. It scared me at first, but by the end of my flight, it was a lot of fun," he said.

Although that was Zeatlow's first time in an airplane, it wasn't his first experience with aviation.

"I have loved aviation for as long as I can remember. I started with paper airplanes and moved on to the real thing," Zeatlow said.

After his flight, he remained involved by reading books, visiting museums as often as he could, and attending AirVenture. Zeatlow, 19, is currently a sophomore attending Iowa State University. He is

pursuing a degree in aerospace engineering. On campus, he is also involved in ROTC and one day hopes to fly in the Air Force.

As a member services intern at EAA, the Brandon, Wisconsin, native is responsible for taking member phone calls to assist in explaining member benefits and renewals and answering AirVenture-related questions. He is also assisting with ordering AirVenture merchandise for event attendees.

"The internship is great because it is the same community you get at AirVenture. Everyone has mostly the same interests. It seems like AirVenture year-round," he said.

Although Zeatlow began his flight lessons, he has not completed the training yet, but hopes to finish soon.

"I would say to get your license as early as you can because the older you get the more excuses you have not to," Zeatlow said.

Matt Ziemann became a Young Eagle in 1994 at age 15. Although it wasn't his first time in an airplane, it was the first time experiencing the full effect of flight.

"It was amazing to actually experience flight. In an airliner, you are essentially just a passenger, but here I got to fly, too. It was the first time I got to fly a little plane myself," he said of his Young Eagles flight.

Ziemann kept his interest in aviation alive by reading everything he could. He attended the Aviation Challenge in Huntsville, Alabama. It was there that he took his first flight lessons, but he had been hooked on aviation long before then.

"Aviation has always been a part of me. My brother and I used to build little airplanes out of wood and attempt to fly them," he said.

Ziemann soloed in a Cessna 152 in 1997 at age 18. A few months later, he earned his private pilot certificate in the same Cessna 152 and earned his instrument rating in 2001. Ziemann has been in the Air Force for the past 14 years and is now an officer. He proudly speaks of his aircraft diversity.

"I have had some awesome experiences flying 38 different aircraft, ranging from military to civilian, including a helicopter and now my own RV-4. I have also had the opportunity to fly all over the country," he said.

He also believes the Young Eagles program is important.

"I got my start with it and it had a significant impact on me," he said. *"My first flight was with Young Eagles, as were many other pilots. I have the ability to give kids their first ride for free and share aviation with them to develop the next generation. It is rare for individuals to fly in a small aircraft and for people to become pilots, but not impossible."*

MATT ZIEMANN

Young Eagle 78614



EAA 1042037



Young Eagle to licensed pilot in 5 steps



Young Eagles Flight
Free first flight starts their aviation journey.



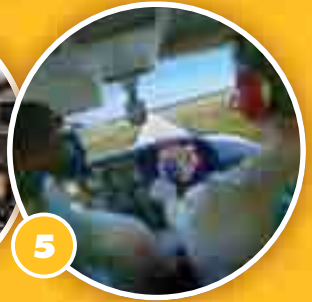
Free EAA Student Membership
Tools they need to reach their aviation dreams.



Sporty's Complete Flight Training Course
Free ground school prepares students for flight training.



First Flight Lesson
Free lesson puts the student at the controls.



Flight Training Scholarships
Help to support their aviation goals.

EAA Young Eagles Flight Plan programs are made possible through the generous support of our partners, including:



EMBRY-RIDDLE
Aeronautical University



Rolls-Royce



The EAA  Flight Plan

Visit YoungEagles.org/flightplan for more details and how to get started with the EAA Young Eagles Flight Plan.



P.O. Box 2683
Oshkosh, WI 54903-2683
920.426.6114
877.806.8902

www.YoungEagles.org

