NAVISPIRE
STEM Education Resources

Funding Your Flight Path

Exploring Aviation Scholarships and How to Apply

Learning Objectives

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

1. Define what an aviation scholarship is.
2. Identify at least three reliable sources for aviation scholarships.
3. Explain the basic components of a scholarship application.
4. Conduct a scholarship search using specific criteria.
5. Develop a personal action plan for applying to aviation scholarships.

Introduction Activity

Ask students:

"Flight Training can cost thousands of dollars. What are some ways a student could help pay for flight training or aviation college programs?"

Allow students to think independently for one minute and then share responses.

As a class, read the current event "AOPA Foundation Awards Record Number of Scholarships" found at: AOPA Foundation awards record number of scholarships - AOPA

Facilitate beginning discussions as a group about what students already know about scholarships.

Important Vocabulary to Understand

Term	Definition
Scholarship	Money awarded to help pay for education or training that does not need to be repaid

Eligibility	The qualifications required to apply for a scholarship
Recommendation Letter	A letter written by a teacher, coach, counselor, or mentor that provides endorsement/support for the applicant
Merit-Based Scholarship	Award based on achievement, leadership, academics, or accomplishments
Need-Based Scholarship	Award will have financial need as an eligibility stipulation
Flight Training Scholarship	Award does not have to be used at a higher ed institution (but it can be) and is designed to help students earn certifications or ratings.

Lecture

Write on the board or display overhead. Have students take notes.

What Is a scholarship?

A scholarship is money awarded to students to help pay for education, training, certifications, or other academic expenses, and unlike a loan, it does not need to be repaid.

Not all scholarships are the same:

- Merit Based
- Financial Need Based
- Unique qualifiers (first generation, state specific, association with a specified group such as first responders, military, or employer as examples)
- Renewable vs non-renewable
- Direct payment vs payment to institution
- Payment upfront vs payment after completion/reimbursement

Who are common scholarship providers?

- Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA)
- Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA)
- Women in Aviation International (WAI)
- National Business Aviation Association (NBAA)
- Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
- Local Aviation Associations
- Airport Organizations
- University Aviation Programs

How can I get prepared to apply for scholarships?

- Create a "Brag Sheet" about yourself-highlight your grades, awards, participation, leadership positions, volunteer experience, work experience, and obstacles overcome. Update this sheet regularly

- Ask for recommendation letters NOW. Provide the recommender with your Brag Sheet. Recommendations should come from coaches, counselors, teachers, bosses, and/or mentors. They should NOT be from a family member. Ask the recommender to sign the letter and make multiple copies so that you have them ready when needed.

- Keep a log/list of scholarships you qualify for along with due dates and set reminders to complete before due date. Also take note of requirements for any scholarship that is renewable and set reminders to re-submit.

- Follow up with thank you notes to those that wrote recommendations as well as any awarded scholarship

Scholarship Search Activity

Have students complete the scholarship graphic organizer template for 3 scholarships.

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Scholarship Search Activity

Scholarship Information	Notes
Scholarship Name	
Organization	
Application link	
Award Amount	
Eligibility Requirements	
Deadline	
Essay Required?	
Recommendation Letter?	