



EAA Young Eagle Pilot Guidelines

The EAA Young Eagles program was launched in 1992. Since then more than 41,000 pilots have been active participants flying 1.4 million young people from more than 90 different countries.

Safety is paramount. For most children and their parents, the Young Eagles program may be the first time they have been exposed to a general aviation airplane and pilot. It may be the first time they have ever been to an airport. With that in mind, take time to act as an ambassador for aviation. Take time to explain what takes place at an airport and the importance of the airport to the community. Encourage them to ask questions.

Pilot Requirements

The Young Eagle Pilot requirements are basic, but must be followed.

- All participating pilots must hold an Appropriate Airmen's Certificate (Sport Pilot or greater)
- Pilots must possess a current Medical Certificate (if applicable)
- Pilots must be current EAA National Members
- Pilots must be current to carry passengers in the aircraft the plan to use.
- Pilots must have a current Flight Review
- Aircraft Passenger Liability Insurance is required for the aircraft used (owned, rental or borrowed)
- The Young Eagles registration form must be completed before the flight including parent or guardian signature.
- The aircraft used for the flight must be in airworthy condition.
- Flights must adhere to all applicable Federal Air Rules (FARs)

As an EAA member, pilots participating in the Young Eagles program are eligible for an additional \$1 million of passenger liability insurance coverage, if they carry a minimum of \$100,000 per seat liability insurance. This coverage is automatically in place when flying Young Eagles; there are no additional forms to complete. In addition to these requirements, you must also meet the current Federal Air Rules (FARs) for the pilot certificate you hold.

Other Young Eagle volunteers (ground support, for example) are not required to be EAA members, but are encouraged to join EAA.

Guidelines for Conducting a Young Eagles Flight

Before the Flight:

In addition to a memorable flight experience, Young Eagles will also remember their pilot. If appropriate, provide your name and telephone number to the Young Eagle for any questions their parents or guardians may have.

Each Young Eagle should already have a registration brochure. This includes important pre-flight information and the release/registration form. In addition, you will need a Young Eagles Certificate. Contact the Young Eagles Office to obtain certificates and registration forms. ***Prior to the flight, you must receive a signed registration form from the parent or legal guardian of the participant and you should complete the pilot portion of the registration, including the self-certification section.***

Now that the paperwork is ready, it is time for the pre-flight. Discuss what you will do and see on your flight. Stress ramp safety, emphasizing caution around propellers and moving aircraft. Conduct a pre-flight inspection accompanied by your Young Eagle. Help them into their seat. Buckle their seat belt and shoulder harness. Explain the operation of the aircraft door. Describe the interior of the airplane. Allow time to answer any questions they may have before you start your engine.

During the Flight:

The experience you provide your Young Eagle will be cherished for a lifetime. Someday, these Young Eagles may share a flight experience with another generation of aviation enthusiasts.

Maintain a common-sense approach to the flight. You may take more than one young person at a time, but consider the experience from the participant's perspective. A flight in a commercial airliner, for instance, would not suit the intent of this program. Allow the participant's parent(s) to observe or take part as circumstances allow, but remember the child is the focus of the event.

Plan your flight to be as pleasant as possible. VFR weather is required. When weighing weather conditions, remember you want the flight to be conducted in the best conditions possible. For example, windy, bumpy days do not make the best first impression.

You may let the Young Eagle follow through on the controls, but you must be in command of the aircraft at all times. ***No hot loading, aerobatic maneuvers, unusual attitudes or formation flights are permitted in the Young Eagles Program.*** However, you may want to demonstrate how the airplane is controlled through demonstration of simple climbs, turns and descents. Apply see-and-avoid techniques at all times.

After the Flight:

Congratulate your new Young Eagle! Share the excitement and encourage further questions. Take as much time as possible with your Young Eagle. They have just completed an experience they will long remember.

Reward the young person with a Young Eagles Certificate and any other recognition you care to add, such as the Young Eagles wristband

Remind the Young Eagle that their name will be entered in the “World’s Largest Logbook” located in the EAA AirVenture Museum in Oshkosh and on the Internet at www.youngeagles.org. **BE SURE YOU SEND IN THE REGISTRATION FORM**, so this can be accomplished. ***Don’t delay!*** A misplaced or lost Registration Record will mean the Young Eagles will not be officially registered for this program or receive subsequent benefits.

Consider having a camera available for pictures. Share your post-flight rituals – replacing maps, straightening the cockpit and pushing the aircraft into the hangar.

Once the registration form is recorded at the Young Eagles office, they will receive an invitation to visit the Young Eagles web site to see their name in the logbook. You can encourage a Young Eagle’s interest in aviation with an invitation to an EAA Chapter meeting, an introduction to a flight instructor or simply an invitation for another flight.

Finally, take pride in what you have done. The Young Eagles Office will officially record your mission information taken from the registration form. Pilots earn recognition as their mission count grows. Remember, it’s not too soon to begin arrangements for your next Young Eagle flight.

Frequently Asked Questions About Young Eagles

What if the child does not meet the age criteria? The program guidelines state that children should be between the ages of eight and 17 (up to the child’s 18th birthday). We encourage you to keep to the guidelines. The minimum age was set at eight for several reasons. First, the child is mature enough to be able to function alone – without mom or dad. Second, they are most likely physically large enough to see out of the windows on an airplane and, lastly, they should be able to grasp the basic concepts of flying.

Those over the age of 18 are adults and, as adults, are not eligible for the Young Eagles program. Registrations from children who are outside the age guidelines will be returned to the pilot for clarification.

Is the Young Eagles Program only for a young person's FIRST ride? No. The intent of the Young Eagles demonstration ride is to motivate young people and provide a memorable flying experience. In many cases, however, it is the child’s first flight experience.

Do I have to belong to an EAA Chapter to participate? No. Any current EAA member may fly Young Eagles, provided they meet the pilot requirements.

I've heard about Young Eagles Flight Rallies. What are they? A Flight Rally is a group flying session to accommodate groups of young people. These events must be organized by EAA Chapters or local Field Representatives. Additional "hands-on" activities are common at these events. Volunteers are always needed to assist at a Flight Rally. Individual pilots or groups of pilots wishing to hold a flight rally should contact their local EAA Chapter or Field Representative to assist in the organization and execution of such an event.

Can I fly more than one Young Eagle at a time? Yes, you may, although many pilots prefer a one-on-one experience. Often at a flight rally, larger numbers of children will make it necessary to fly more than one child at a time. Please be sensitive to all your passengers and involve them in the experience. However, no more than three Young Eagles can be flown at a time.

What is a Young Eagles pilot ID number and how can I use it? Pilot ID numbers are assigned to each pilot *after* they register their first Eagle Flight. It is not necessary to obtain a Pilot ID number before flying your first Eagle Flight. A letter from the Young Eagles Office will be sent directly to you after your first registered Young Eagles flight indicating your pilot ID number.

Can I fly in my licensed "Experimental" aircraft? Yes. All aircraft are eligible provided they are properly licensed and flown in accordance with appropriate FARs (or the country's equivalent) and the Young Eagles Program guidelines.

Are there any restrictions on flight activities? To provide the conditions for the best possible experience for first-time flyers, all Young Eagles flights must be conducted in VFR weather. No unusual attitudes, formation flights or aerobatics are permitted. All aircraft must shut down between flights (no hot loading).

I'm not a pilot. How can participate? Volunteers are needed to assist in finding young people, flightline safety, registration and coordinating pre- and post-flight activities. Volunteers are also needed to serve as local EAA Chapter Coordinators. There are many opportunities to help young people experience aviation. Many Young Eagle events are scheduled around the world each week and your assistance is always welcome.

Who can I contact for suggestions or support? For general questions about Young Eagles, please contact the EAA Young Eagles office. Phone: 877-806-8902. E-Mail: Yeagles@eaa.org. FAX: 920-426-6865. Additional background information and activity suggestions are available on the Young Eagles web site, www.youngeagles.org