



# 2021 AOPA HIGH SCHOOL FLIGHT TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

## APPLICATION DEADLINES

**Deadline: February 14, 2021 | 11:59 p.m. (EST)**

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Scholarship applicants\* must meet all the criteria listed below.

1. Current member of AOPA at both the time of application and when the scholarship is awarded. Not a member? AOPA offers a free [AV8RS membership](#) to high school students, a [free 6-month student pilot membership](#), as well as other [membership options](#).
2. Current high school student, 15- to 18-years old
3. U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident
4. Parent or guardian approval (if under 18 years of age)
5. Not have completed a sport, recreational, glider, or private pilot certificate at the time of application
6. Minimum GPA of 2.75
7. Agree to complete solo flight or achieve pilot certificate within one year of receiving the scholarship

*\* Employees of AOPA and their immediate family members and household members are not eligible to participate in the AOPA High School Flight Training Scholarship program. The term "immediate family members" includes spouses, siblings, children, and grandchildren.*

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **I AM HOMESCHOOLED. WHO CAN SERVE AS A REFERENCE IN PLACE OF MY PARENT WHO IS MY TEACHER?**

References from relatives and friends will **disqualify** your application. References should be written by adults who have interacted with you as your supervisor or leader. Teachers, coaches, Civil Air Patrol leaders, flight instructors, after school program supervisors, church leaders, and work supervisors are examples of people who can be used as references.

### **WHAT IS A TRANSCRIPT?**

A transcript is an official list of all the courses you have taken during high school including the grades you have earned during the 2020-2021 school year, including your cumulative, unweighted GPA. This list, along with the grades you have earned in each course, is an official document from your school.

### **WHAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN MY TRANSCRIPT?**

A transcript should include all the courses you have taken during high school including the grades you have earned for those courses. It should also include your cumulative, unweighted grade point average (GPA), which is the average of all your grades from the courses you have taken in high school. The official transcript from your school should also include the school name.

### **MUST THE TRANSCRIPT BE AN OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT?**

Yes. Your school guidance office should be able to print an official copy for you or email you a locked PDF file of your transcript. You can scan this document and upload it to your scholarship application as a PDF. No word documents will be accepted as a transcript. If you are homeschooled, you are still required to submit a transcript with your grades and cumulative, unweighted GPA included on it.

### **HOW RECENT SHOULD MY TRANSCRIPT BE?**

The transcript you provide should be dated within the 2020-2021 school year. If you are in grades 10-12, you should only include high school grades. If you are a 9<sup>th</sup> grade student, then middle school grades can be included.

### **WHO CAN BE A REFERENCE FOR ME?**

You will need to submit two references. At least one reference must be from a teacher, guidance counselor, coach, or other school official. The other reference can also be from another teacher, school official, flight instructor (if you have one), or another adult who knows you well or has supervised you. References should be adults who know you, not friends who are your age.

Be sure to ask your reference if they can complete this for you by the deadlines specified prior to listing them as a reference. Should you need to ask someone else to serve as a reference for you, you can log back into the application system and edit the application field that asks for a reference's name and email address at any time until the deadline.

Make sure the references you choose have the ability to use a computer so they can submit their reference to your online application.

In no situation should a parent, guardian or other relative complete a reference for you. If a parent, guardian, or other relative completes a reference for you, your application will be **disqualified**. If you are homeschooled and your parent is your only teacher, provide a reference instead for an adult who has had a supervisory role over you, such as an employer, extracurricular activity leader, youth pastor, etc. Your application will be disqualified if a parent or guardian is used as a reference even if they are your only teacher.

### **WHO CANNOT BE A REFERENCE FOR ME?**

References cannot be provided by a parent, guardian, or other relative. If an applicant is homeschooled with the parent serving in the role of teacher, the applicant must ask another adult to serve as a reference who has been in a supervisory role over the applicant. References should be people who supervised you, not friends who are your age.

### **WHAT SHOULD MY REFERENCES WRITE ABOUT?**

Your reference should explain how they know you and what their relationship is to you. They also might describe ways that you display responsibility, leadership traits, good decision-making skills, and your interest in aviation. Excellent references will help to make the case why you should be chosen for a scholarship so select someone who can say good things about you.

### **HOW DOES THE RECOMMENDATION PROCESS WORK?**

On your application you will enter the names and email addresses of two references. Once you submit your application, the system will send each of your references a link to the online recommendation form. Ask your two references to complete the online form by the application deadline (**February 14, 2021, 11:59 p.m. EST**).

When a recommendation is submitted on your behalf, you should receive an email confirmation. You can also log into the application system to see if your recommendations have been submitted.

### **ONE OF THE PEOPLE I ASKED TO SUBMIT A RECOMMENDATION FOR ME WANTS TO SEND IT VIA EMAIL. IS THAT OKAY?**

No, all recommendations must be submitted using the online recommendation link that is provided to each reference once you submit your application. The form your reference completes attaches their recommendation to your application. No exceptions will be made.

#### **WHAT GPA SHOULD I USE, WEIGHTED OR UNWEIGHTED?**

Your GPA should be based on the unweighted method of calculating a GPA and be provided using a 4.0 scale.

#### **IF I AM IN 9TH GRADE, WHAT SHOULD I DO FOR MY GPA, TRANSCRIPT?**

If you are a 9<sup>th</sup> grade student, then middle school grades can also be included. Transcripts should show all courses taken along with grades that were earned for each course. Transcripts also list your cumulative average.

#### **WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR ME TO TURN IN?**

Applicants must:

1. Complete an online application with written responses.
2. Upload your most recent high school transcript including the 2020-2021 school year.
3. Provide **two** references. At least one must be from a teacher, counselor, flight instructor, coach, or other school official. Both references could be from teachers, counselors, coaches, or other school officials. References should be from people who supervised you, not friends who are your same age. References cannot be provided by a parent, guardian, or other relative. If a parent, guardian, or other relative completes a reference for you, your application will be disqualified.
4. Scholarship funds/monies received by the applicant must be spent and exhausted on authorized expenses within twelve (12) months of applicant's receipt of any scholarship funds.

#### **CAN I PRINT THE APPLICATION AND MAIL IT IN?**

No, paper applications will not be accepted.

#### **ARE THERE EXCEPTIONS FOR LATE APPLICATIONS OR RECOMMENDATIONS?**

Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted. No exceptions can be made for missing the **final application deadline of Sunday, February 14, 2021, 11:59 p.m. EST.**

Both recommendations must also be completed for your application to be considered. Be sure to give your recommenders plenty of time to complete their forms.

#### **I DIDN'T WIN A SCHOLARSHIP THE LAST TIME I APPLIED. SHOULD I APPLY AGAIN?**

Of course! We know there are many outstanding high school students who would really benefit from a flight training scholarship. Please note all applications are cleared after the scholarship recipients are selected. If still eligible, you must submit a new application and recommendations each award cycle to ensure we're reviewing the most current information.

**IF I WIN A SCHOLARSHIP, HOW DO I GET THE MONEY? DOES IT GO TO MY FLIGHT SCHOOL?** If you are a scholarship recipient, the funds are provided to you directly via a prepaid expense card.

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## **REMINDER!**

**BE SURE TO REVIEW THE FAQs BEFORE EMAILING AOPA WITH QUESTIONS.**

If your questions have not been answered here, please email [FTscholarship@aopa.org](mailto:FTscholarship@aopa.org).

[APPLY NOW](#)

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