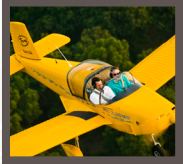


## FLYING GENERAL AVIATION GIVES YOU THE WORLD'S BEST VIEW.



Learning to fly general aviation aircraft is well within the capabilities of the average person, intellectually and physically. Even some disabilities—deafness, for instance—need not keep a person who really wants to fly out of the cockpit.

General aviation has an excellent and steadily improving safety record. Since the big surge in private and business flying that followed WWII, the total accident rate has decreased by more than 85%—down to just seven accidents per 100,000 flight hours. The latest data shows general aviation flies more than 20 million hours each year.

More than 90% of the roughly 220,000 civil aircraft registered in the United States are general aviation aircraft. And of the nation's approximately 600,000 pilots, an estimated 500,000+ fly general aviation airplanes. Incidentally, many airline pilots also fly general aviation aircraft—for pleasure! The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) has nearly 400,000 members.

The great fleet of general aviation aircraft is the mainspring of a \$20 billion a year industry, which generates more than \$150 billion in economic activity. Thousands of communities benefit as their airports create a positive ripple effect in the local economy.



GENERAL AVIATION  
SERVES AMERICA

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit [www.aopafoundation.org](http://www.aopafoundation.org) or call (800)USA-AOPA (800.872.2672)

### Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association

421 Aviation Way  
Frederick, MD 21701



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THE AOPA FOUNDATION

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## WHAT IS GENERAL AVIATION

### THE SIMPLE ANSWER:

General aviation is all civilian flying except scheduled passenger airline service.

### AS SIMPLE AS THAT?

Yes. And as complex as that. General aviation includes flying as diverse as overnight package delivery and a weekend visit back home; as different as emergency medical evacuation and inspection trips to remote construction sites; as complimentary as aerial application to keep crops healthy and airborne law enforcement to keep the peace.

General aviation benefits the community in so many ways, it's hard to cover them all. We scan a few of them on the following pages.

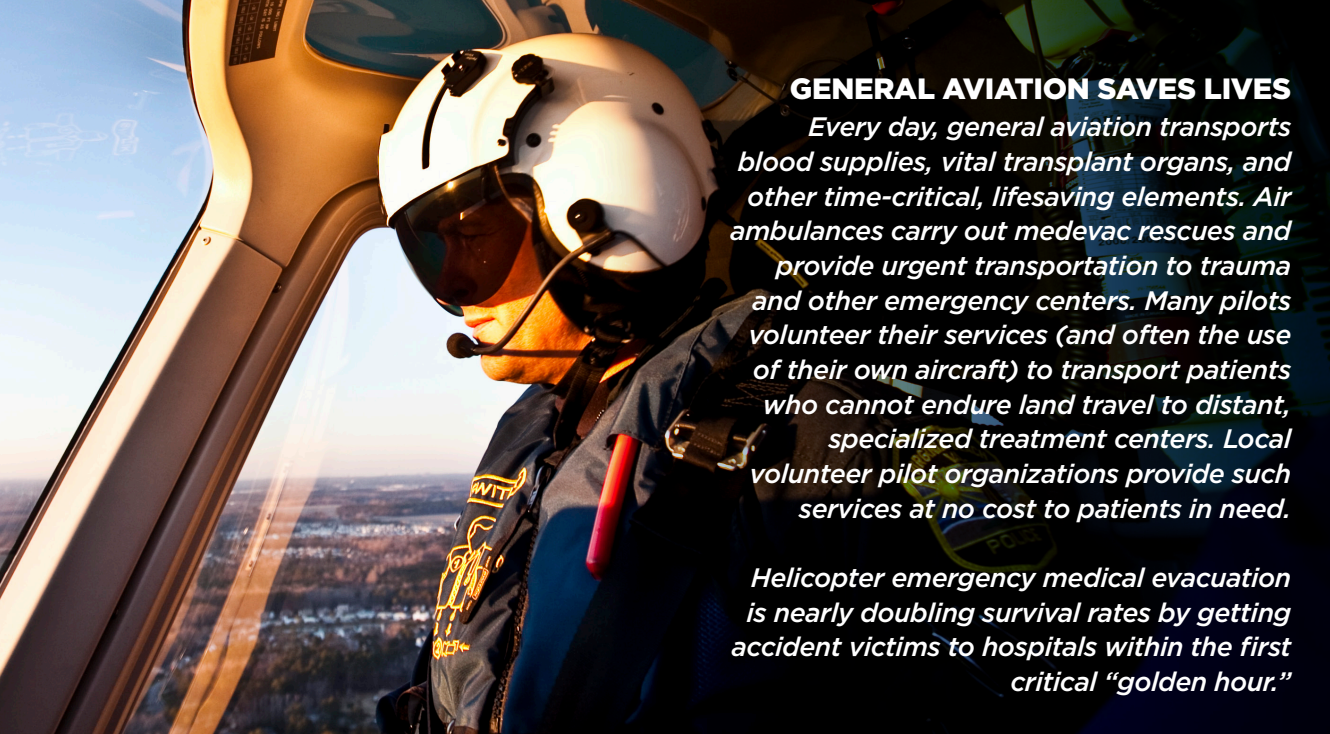
An estimated 65% of general aviation flights are conducted for business and public services that need transportation more flexible than the airlines can offer. That flexibility can be a hometown businessman flying his own small airplane to see four clients on a one-day, 700-mile circuit, or it can be a CEO and five staff members working at 30,000 feet while en route to a major meeting. By scheduled airlines, the first trip could take up to four days and three hotel bills; the second would be impossible.

Like the family automobile, the family airplane (owned or rented) can provide mobility and pleasure, and it's almost always a more enjoyable trip by air. The family airplane can triple the comfortable range of vacation travel while avoiding the stress and frustrations of heavy traffic. And, of course, the family breadwinner can use the same airplane to great advantage in business by virtue of its speed and flexibility.

A common misconception leads some to think of personal or small business aircraft as only for the extremely wealthy. In fact, many people of middle class means fly airplanes less costly to acquire than a new family car.

## WHAT IS GENERAL AVIATION



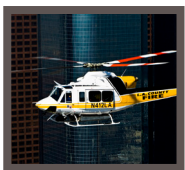


### GENERAL AVIATION SAVES LIVES

*Every day, general aviation transports blood supplies, vital transplant organs, and other time-critical, lifesaving elements. Air ambulances carry out medevac rescues and provide urgent transportation to trauma and other emergency centers. Many pilots volunteer their services (and often the use of their own aircraft) to transport patients who cannot endure land travel to distant, specialized treatment centers. Local volunteer pilot organizations provide such services at no cost to patients in need.*

*Helicopter emergency medical evacuation is nearly doubling survival rates by getting accident victims to hospitals within the first critical "golden hour."*

### FOR BUSINESS & PERSONAL TRANSPORTATION, GENERAL AVIATION OFFERS SPEED & FLEXIBILITY



More and more people are discovering that general aviation is fast, efficient, and safe, opening a whole new vista of travel opportunities. For both business and personal travel, general aviation means going where you want to go (not just where the airlines go) when you want to go (free from airline schedules), and in a greater degree of privacy.

The payoff is greater transportation flexibility and productivity than any other mode of travel can provide. But even those who never seize these advantages benefit, because general aviation works for the community, bolstering the economy and providing essential services.

### GENERAL AVIATION PROTECTS OUR ENVIRONMENT



The most efficient and cost-effective way to conduct wildlife surveys, map wetland losses and soil erosion, follow bird migrations, patrol parklands, and detect pipeline spills is with general aviation aircraft. Specially equipped government and private aircraft gather information vital to the work of wildlife specialists, park rangers, prospectors, environmentalists, and many others.

General aviation has long been our front line in fighting forest fires. Helicopter and fixed-wing water bombers save millions of acres of woodlands each year, protecting homes, national parks, and the nation's precious forests.

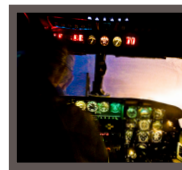
### GENERAL AVIATION MAKES YOUR DRIVING SAFER, SMOOTHER

Airborne traffic reporters broadcasting on radio and television help millions of Americans in

their daily commute, reporting accidents and other tie-ups to drivers and the police.

On a trip, you'll use maps drawn and updated from aerial photo data. That basic information is also used by urban planners, engineers, and government agencies to plan street and highway construction and other infrastructure improvements.

### GENERAL AVIATION WORKS WHILE YOU SLEEP



All night long, general aviation expedites financial transactions by transporting canceled checks and other documents throughout the Federal Reserve System.

By cutting down the cost of "float" until checks clear, general aviation plays a vital role in banking and commerce.

General aviation also flies important documents and overnight packages on their way to offices, factories, and individuals under next-day time pressures. Express freight, like vital machine parts and mail to small towns, also move by fast and flexible general aviation to thousands of locations where the major air carriers don't fly.

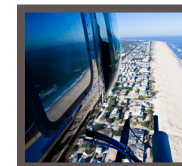
### GENERAL AVIATION AIDS AGRICULTURE



Ag pilots treat more than 75 million acres of cropland each year, boosting production of the nation's agricultural bounty. Planting, too, can often be done more efficiently by air. Ninety-five percent of the U.S. rice crop is planted by aircraft. Ranchers use general aviation aircraft to manage herds and grazing land.

Agriculture and general aviation are long-time partners in progress.

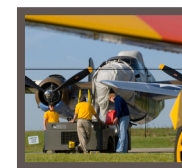
### GENERAL AVIATION FACILITATES LAW ENFORCEMENT



General aviation aircraft have revolutionized law enforcement in federal, state, and local jurisdictions. Police use light airplanes and helicopters to patrol highways, apprehend suspects, back up ground units, monitor national borders, and locate lost children.

In a single year, for example, airborne Los Angeles law enforcement officers responded to more than 30,000 incidents, an average of 3.8 per hour. The result: 3,500 arrests, 1,354 suspects spotted, 747 stolen cars recovered, and 205 residential and other urban fires discovered. That's government productivity, made possible by general aviation.

### GENERAL AVIATION: THE PEOPLE'S AIR CARRIER



If scheduled airlines are the nation's air transport arteries, general aviation is its equally important capillary system. Charter and air taxi flights carry passengers to and from smaller cities, thousands of which have no airline service. Business, cargo, and personal flights reach anywhere, anytime—on the traveler's or shipper's schedule, not the airline's.

About 75% of major airline flights operate out of just 46 big city airports. Seventy percent of all airline passengers are merely shuttled among 30 hub airports. In all, only about 560 U.S. airports are certified for scheduled airline service with aircraft seating more than 30 passengers. But general aviation can access all 19,600 public and private landing facilities in the United States.