



AOPA FOUNDATION

Program Updates
2023 End-of-Year Report



YOU CAN FLY
AOPA FOUNDATION



AOPA AIR SAFETY
INSTITUTE



AOPA FOUNDATION

2023

End-Of-Year Report **IN THE NEWS**



AOPA'S McSPADDEN LIVED HIS PASSION

Across the nation, Richard McSpadden influenced pilots and aviation groups through speaking engagements and involvement in safety initiatives.

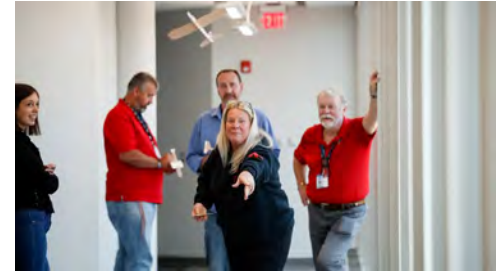
[READ MORE>](#)



\$1 MILLION FOR STUDENTS

AOPA Foundation scholarship program is now open for 2024, made possible through generous donations.

[READ MORE>](#)



AOPA, CHOOSE AEROSPACE PARTNER ON AVIATION EDUCATION, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

With an intent to meet the ongoing and increasing demand for pilots and mechanics, AOPA and Choose Aerospace are teaming up to share ideas, best practices, and training resources.

[READ MORE>](#)



YOU CAN FLY SYMPOSIUM DRAWS TEACHERS PREPARING FUTURE PILOTS

Astronauts, fighter pilots, and aerospace executives primed about 500 teachers to continue growing the AOPA You Can Fly High School STEM Curriculum that has helped more than 72,000 students get a leg up on aerospace careers.

[READ MORE>](#)



EDUCATION GRANT OPENS AVIATION PATHWAYS

K-12 students at 20 Nebraska schools will benefit from a \$2 million Department of Defense Education Activity grant, initiating the Bellevue Public Schools Aviation Academy.

[READ MORE>](#)



AVIATION PROGRAM TAKES OFF AT MARYLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Students at Williamsport High School in Maryland now have access to 12 new simulators at this three-pathway high school program championed by the AOPA Foundation.

[READ MORE>](#)



AOPA FOUNDATION

aopafoundation.org

YOU CAN FLY

HIGH SCHOOLS

2023 was a landmark year for the High Schools team. Their efforts created incredible growth for the [AOPA Foundation High School Aviation STEM curriculum](#), with 466 programs serving 960 schools in 46 states and the District of Columbia. Nearly 23,000 students are participating during the 2023-2024 school year. To date, the program has been used by 72,000 students since 2016. Of the 2022-2023 students in the curriculum, more than 1,300 began flight training.

The 9th annual You Can Fly High School Aviation STEM Symposium, held in November, offered nearly 500 educators, administrators and aerospace professionals the opportunity to share ideas, experiences and more to bring aviation STEM programs to the classroom. The first annual Aviation and Aerospace Workforce Development Summit was held at Symposium, allowing more than 40 participants and nearly 30 aviation and aerospace companies to create pathways for collaboration.

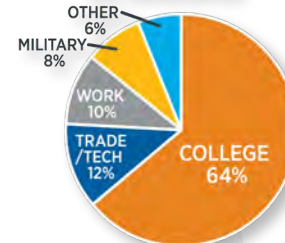
The High School team has been hard at work to develop a “Train-the-Trainer” model to deliver more in-person professional development opportunities to teachers of our curriculum. In early 2024, we will be hosting 16 of our longest tenured curriculum teachers at AOPA headquarters to train them to deliver professional development to other educators. Five subsequent professional development workshops are scheduled.

The High School team has also developed a new, one-semester workforce development curriculum that will give students real-world work experience while teaching them soft skills in the classroom.

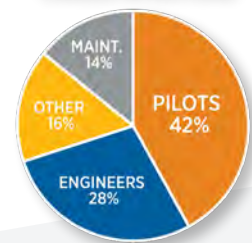
CURRICULUM FOOTPRINT 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

Programs - 466
Schools Served - 960
States Served - 46 + DC
Students Served - 22,700
Female - 23%
Students of Color - 42%

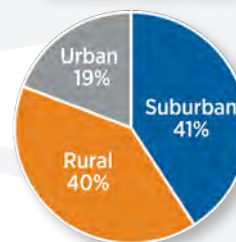
POSTSECONDARY INTENTIONS ALL GRADUATES



GRADUATE AVIATION CAREER INTENTIONS



SCHOOL LOCATIONS



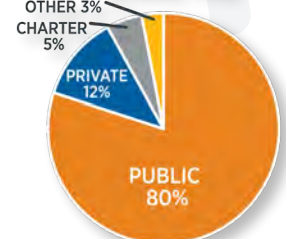
CAREER INTENTIONS ALL GRADUATES



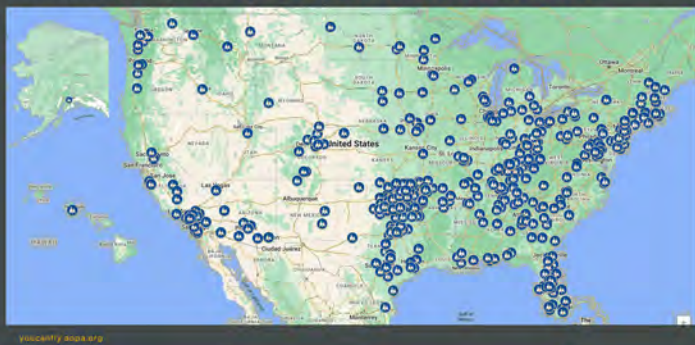
ETHNICITY



SCHOOL TYPE



HIGH SCHOOL DISTRIBUTION 2023-2024



SCHOLARSHIPS

The AOPA Foundation Aviation Scholarship Program is accepting applications for more than \$1 million in scholarships that will be awarded in 2024. More than 1,200 applications have been received. [The application process closes February 9, 2024.](#)



In 2023, 137 scholarships were awarded ranging from \$2,500 to \$20,000

- 94 High School scholarships
- 5 Teacher scholarships
- 28 Primary and advanced rating scholarships
- 8 FAA Knowledge Exam scholarships
- 2 Aviation maintenance scholarships

70% of 2023 scholarship winners have completed a milestone; the following accomplishments have been achieved since June of 2023:

- 46 private pilot certificates
- 48 solo flights
- 2 instrument ratings
- 1 commercial rating

FLYING CLUBS

Flying Clubs has helped five new clubs become operational in the fourth quarter, for a total of **21 clubs started in 2023**. In all, 239 flying clubs have been started with the assistance of the Flying Clubs team.

This quarter, the team released three new Flying Clubs Radio editions:

- [Flight Training in Flying Clubs](#)
- [Insurance – Revisited, Take 2](#)
- [Working with your Airport Manager](#)

In 2023, the team released 12 Club Connector Newsletters and 12 editions of Flying Clubs Radio. They also hosted 12 MFMC seminars and presented at 16 national aviation events. Through all their collective outreach, the team has engaged 2,595 members in 2023.

FLIGHT TRAINING

The AOPA Flight Training Advantage (AFTA) system now boasts more than 13,000 flight hours logged, with more than 2,000 flight schools, 1,600 independent CFIs, and 934 students utilizing the platform.

The team has developed multiple new features in the app to better assist students and CFIs in the flight training process, making it easier for CFIs to edit lessons before flights and make logbook entry corrections.

We recognized 38 schools and 71 CFIs at the 2023 Flight Training Experience Awards held at Redbird Migration. In all, 133 flight schools and 179 CFIs received customer feedback as a result of the 2023 survey.

The team also created a customer feedback program to publicly post flight training provider customer reports to the AOPA Airport Directory.



2023 Flight Training Experience Award Winners

• [Don't Get Rusty](#) monthly webinar

12 Don't Get Rusty webinars were hosted covering topics ranging from airspace, towered and non-towered airport operations, how to perfect your landings, glider flying, and aerodynamics to more than 26,000 viewers.

• [Flight School Business](#)

To build an active Flight School Business Network the team has increased its social media presence and published 9 interviews in a series called Quick Tips from the Field.

RUSTY PILOTS

After a busy year, the Rusty Pilot team finished 2023 with 1,987 people completing the online course and 1,318 participating in an in-person Rusty Pilot seminar. Due to the popularity of the Rusty Pilot webinars, the team added more dates in the fourth quarter to accommodate interested pilots, leading to a total of 5 webinars with 733 attendees.

Four [Back to Your Roots](#) webinars, designed to help professional pilots return to general aviation flying, were held in 2023.

The team also celebrated the 10,000th [Rusty Pilot online course](#) completion since the course began in 2018.

SINCE 2014:

50,870 webinar, seminar, and online course attendees

12,721 inactive pilot attendees have returned to general aviation



AOPA AIR SAFETY INSTITUTE

STATE OF GENERAL AVIATION SAFETY

General aviation saw a slight uptick in the fatal accident rate in fiscal year 2023 (October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023), compared to 2021's record-setting low year. While 2023 flight activity numbers won't be published until January 2025, current projections based on 2022 flight activity data indicate that 2023 is shaping up to be the second safest year on record.

Overall, general aviation is growing across most segments and has bounced back stronger than pre-pandemic levels. Activity grew to an estimated 26.9 million flight hours across general aviation in 2022 with 2023 suggesting even higher activity numbers.

REACHING WORLDWIDE AUDIENCES

Total participation in ASI's programs in 2023 reached nearly **9.8 million**. Participation highlights include:

- 6 million video views
- 2.5 million social media views
- 6,100 eFIRC completions
- 3,400 attendees at seminars, webinars, and keynote presentations
- 500,000 publication and report downloads
- 365,000 podcast downloads
- 8,300 Focused Flight Review profile downloads

DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT

ASI released 25 new videos in six series during 2023. Additionally, 13 new [“There I Was...”](#) podcasts were released. After four issues of each of ASI's quarterly newsletter, [CFI to CFI](#) and USAIG's [Premium on Safety](#), both newsletters will be discontinued to shift resources to more cost-effective programs with greater reach in the GA community.

4th QUARTER VIDEOS

Three *Real Pilot Story* videos:

- [Hidden Hazard](#)
- [The Heat of the Moment](#)
- [Cold Weather Catastrophe](#)

Two *Beyond Proficient: IFR* videos:

- [Managing Weather Deviations in Flight](#)
- [How to Depart Safely in Low IMC](#)