



## 2026 FLIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

**PILOT TRAINING NOTE: ALL APPLICANTS FOR PRIVATE PILOT TRAINING:** You should be aware that obtaining a Private Pilot's License will require significant commitment to your time every week for the duration of your training. Our expectation is that all our awardees will need to be able to fly four to five times every week until their training is complete and will be able to regularly engage in significant amounts of home study time. Before applying, interested parties should consider whether or not they will be able to meet such a weekly time obligation for a period of four to six months. You will need to dedicate your full summer towards achieving this pilot's license.

**Private Pilot Training (AAA)** – (1) applicant who will be age 17 to 25 as of September 30, 2026, will receive training toward a Private Pilot License. The minimum value will be \$5,500 up to a maximum value of \$12,000 based on the student achieving certain training milestones (see Rules and Guidelines below)

**Private Pilot Training (EHGF)** – (1) applicant who will be age 17 to 25 as of September 30, 2026, will receive training toward a Private Pilot License. The minimum value will be \$5,500 up to a maximum value of \$12,000 based on the student achieving certain training milestones (see Rules and Guidelines below)

**Primary or Instrument Instruction (Mach 5 Aviation\*\*)** – (1) applicant who will be age 17 to 25 as of September 30, 2026, will receive training, Dual Instruction, including aircraft + CFI, towards a private pilot certificate or instrument rating up to a value of \$5,500. (Mach 5 will specify which aircraft and instructor are available for this offer.) Ground school, Ground-Only Lessons, solo hours, and pilot supplies are **not** included.

**Private Pilot Training (EAA Chapter 526)** – (1) applicant who will be age 17 to 19 as of September 30, 2026. The applicant's name may be submitted by EAA 526 to EAA National for approval of the **EAA Ray Aviation Scholarship**. Up to \$12,000 in funds may be available pending those results.

**Richard Conte Checkride Prep-** (1) applicant who will be aged 17 to 25 as of September 30, 2026, will receive final training/proficiency towards completion of an FAA rating or pilot certificate. This scholarship is awarded to the memory of **Designated Pilot Examiner Richard Conte**. Funds may be used for solo or dual ground/ flight training. Awardee must be within 10 hours of FAA certification requirements prior to receipt of funding. The maximum award value will be \$1,500.

## PILOT TRAINING FOR ADVANCED CERTIFICATE OR RATING

Training for an advanced rating or certificate is offered by the **Ellsworth Hovey Getchell Foundation** and **The Munro Family** through the **Auburn Aviation Association**. One instrument training scholarship may be funded by **Mach 5 Aviation**. Applicants that meet the following requirements may receive training.

**Instrument Rating (EHGF, Munro, Mach 5 Aviation)** – Up to (5) scholarships valued up to \$12,000 each in training towards an instrument rating will be awarded to qualified applicants. Applicants who will be aged 17 to 25 as of September 30, 2026, must hold a Private Pilot License at the time of application. Unless enrolled in a FAR Part 141 training program, the recipient must have 20 hours of PIC cross-country time to begin training under this scholarship. **\*\*Mach 5 Aviation scholarship** is up to \$5,500 in value. **See description under "Pilot Training" above.**

**Commercial Pilot License (EHGF, Munro)** – Up to (4) scholarships for up to \$12,000 each in training towards a Commercial Pilot License will be awarded to qualified applicants. Applicants who will be aged 18-25 as of September 30, 2026, must hold a Private Pilot License at the time of application. Recipients must be within 40 hours of the flight time requirement for the CPL to begin training under this scholarship.

**RULES AND GUIDELINES NEXT PAGE**

## 2026 FLIGHT SCHOLARSHIP RULES AND GUIDELINES

1. An applicant must:
  - a. Be a citizen of the United States
  - b. Reside in Amador, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, or Yuba Counties
  - c. Be aged 17 to 25 as of September 30, 2026. Some scholarship awards will have additional age requirements.
  - d. Complete an online application and provide contact information.
  - e. Specify the scholarship(s) for which he/she is applying. NOTE: Persons who are prior recipients of \$10,000 scholarships or greater from any of these sponsors or the Aerospace Museum of California are ineligible for the 2026 scholarships. Recipients of the Mach 5 Aviation scholarships are ineligible for additional scholarships from Mach 5 Aviation
  - f. Be available for an interview at Auburn Airport or Zoom Cloud Meeting (if required) on Saturdays: February 28 and March 7, 2026
  
2. **Applications- OPEN: December 6, 2025, CLOSE: 10:00 pm January 31, 2026**
  
3. Training must be accomplished at one of the following flight schools located at the Auburn airport, KAUN: **Mach 5 Aviation, Sierra Air Helicopters, Sky Trails Aviation, Sunshine Flyers.**
  
4. **An FAA medical certificate** appropriate for the license or rating will be required. A copy of the FAA medical certificate must be provided prior to the start of training and **no later than May 15, 2026**. If the medical is denied and an application for an FAA waiver has been filed, AAA must be notified as soon as possible.
  
5. Training Milestones and Expectations (AAA, EHGF, Munro)
  - a. **Private Pilot License (PPL):** deadline for starting ground school is May 1, 2026. The deadline for completion of ground school and for commencing flight training is June 4, 2026. The deadline for passing the written examination is June 30, 2026. The deadline for soloing will be 25 hours of flight time or August 15, 2026, whichever comes first. Applicant must have been signed off by his/her flight instructor as eligible for the FAA flight check for the private pilot license by November 30, 2026
  - b. **Instrument Rating (IFR):** FAA Written Exam Passed by June 30, 2026. Applicant must have been signed off by his/her flight instructor as eligible for the FAA flight check for the instrument rating by November 30, 2026
  - c. **Commercial Pilot License (CPL):** FAA Written Exam Passed by June 30, 2026. Applicant must have been signed off by his/her flight instructor as eligible for the FAA flight check for the Commercial Pilot license by November 30, 2026.
  - d. Simulator training in the AAA Redbird FMX may be required for some of these scholarships.
  - e. Waivers for some of the requirements in parts a, b, c, above may be considered.
  - f. All awardees will be assigned a mentor. A written “progress report” must be submitted to that mentor by the end of each month. Failure to submit monthly reports on time may result in a halt of funding.

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6. Funding:

- a. Training invoices will be submitted by the flight school to the scholarship provider monthly. Funds for payment will be issued directly to the flight school.
- b. Funds may be used for ground school up to \$300, FAA written exam up to \$200 and for FAA flight examiner fees. Receipt required.
- c. \$12,000 scholarships: \$5500 available immediately. Proof of solo (PPL) and successful completion of FAA written (ALL) is required to receive the second installment. IFR recipients: 20 hours of PIC XC is required prior to commencing training at a non-FAR 141 flight school. CPL recipients: must be within 40 flight hours of the FAA requirement for the commercial pilot certificate prior to commencing training.
- d. Mach 5 Aviation Flight Scholarship is cash value not cash.
- e. Funds are available until January 31, 2027.
- f. Additional expenses are the responsibility of the student, i.e., headset, medical exam, charts, etc.
- g. Scholarship award is NOT GUARANTEED to cover the total cost of pilot training. Students will need to self-provide any additional funding required.
- h. EAA Ray Aviation Scholarships have their own rules and guidelines. ([See Ray Aviation Scholarship Fund](#))

7. All decisions regarding these scholarships are final. The awards are not transferable.