



Grand Traverse Region
EAA Chapter 234

Ray Scholarship Application

EAA Chapter 234
2640 Aeropark Ave.
Traverse City MI, 49684

Congratulations on your decision to apply for our flight training scholarship!

Acquiring a pilot's certificate is a privilege that requires commitment, dedicated study, perseverance, and a willingness to learn. This endeavor should not be taken lightly, but the process will be extremely rewarding and will, in many ways, change your life.

This application must be completed and submitted to EAA Chapter 234 by March 15, 2026.

The following Flight Training Scholarship opportunities are currently available for students ages 15 to 19. The maximum scholarship award amount varies with the type of pilot certificate sought:

Glider Pilot (15-19)
\$6,000

Light Sport Pilot (16-19)
\$9,000

Private Pilot (16-19)
\$12,000

Flight training is tailored to individual abilities. It is possible the selected certificate can be completed at a cost below the award limits. However, it is probable that training completion may require additional funds to be provided by the applicant.

If awarded a scholarship, EAA national will provide funds to EAA Chapter 234 to administer on behalf of the student pilot. Continued funding is dependent upon the scholar completing progress reports and meeting training milestones in a timely manner (please see the reference material attached). However, a very important milestone is the successful completion of the Private Pilot written exam. Applicants are encouraged to prepare for and take this exam prior to application for the scholarship.

The scholar will commit to a minimum of **two volunteer hours per month** for the local EAA chapter. A third-class medical certificate is required for Private Pilot scholars prior to applying for the scholarship.

If selected for the scholarship, a local EAA member will help you understand and complete these requirements. All applications are subject to request for additional information and a subsequent EAA selection process.

More information about the Ray Scholarship can be found online at:
<https://www.eaa.org/rayscholarship>.

More information about EAA Chapter 234 can be found at: [https://Scholarships \(eaa234.org\)](https://Scholarships (eaa234.org))

We are glad you have taken the first step by applying with EAA 234! Please direct any questions to:

Jim Sorbie
[Jim @sorbiefam.com](mailto:Jim@sorbiefam.com)
231-590-5341
Applications can be mailed to the mailing address above or emailed to Jim@sorbiefam.com



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SCHOLAR/APPLICANT INFORMATION

First _____ Last _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone: (____) ____ - ____ Cell: (____) ____ - ____ Date of Birth _____

Email Address _____

PARENT / LEGAL GUARDIAN INFORMATION

First _____ Last _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone: (____) ____ - ____ Work: (____) ____ - ____ Cell: (____) ____ - ____

Parent/Guardian Email Address _____

Why Do You Want to Learn to Fly? Please tell us about yourself and your future plans for aviation?

What are your career goals, aspirations, or dreams?



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Given your current schedule (work, family, school) how many times per week could you train if you were awarded this scholarship?

One 2 Hour Session Per Week
 Three 2 Hour Sessions Per Week

Two 2 Hour Sessions Per Week
 Four 2 Hour Sessions Per Week

This scholarship provides up to \$12,000 in flight training expenses, how will you fund further training or flight expenses?

Do you have any flight Training experience (e.g. actual previous lessons, Sporty's Online Course, Flight Sim Experience, You Tube, etc)

Have you participated in the EAA Young Eagles program, and if so how many flights have you taken?

If you're not sure you can check the online [Young Eagle logbook HERE](#).

Have you completed a ground school course? Yes No

Have you completed your FAA written exam? Yes No

Have you accepted any other aviation scholarships? Yes No

If so, can you tell us about them? _____



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Participation In EAA Chapter 234 Activities are a requirement of the Scholar, which area of chapter activities interests you the most? (Circle/Check those of interest to you)

- Young Eagles rally volunteering.
- Pancake breakfast/fly-in volunteering.
- Chapter aircraft build project support.
- Chapter gathering participation.
- Flight Sim Support and education
- Website/Facebook support

Do you have a Third-Class Medical (or higher)? (required for this application) Yes No

Please list academic achievements (i.e. GPA, School activities)

Please list outside School Activities:

Essay: Please provide a short essay on why you feel you deserve a Ray Aviation Scholar award. Essay must be no more than one page. Please include personal accomplishments, academic and aviation interests, career goals, and any other information to supplement or clarify above answers. Please remember that you will be required to supply this or a similar essay to the EAA (national) as part of the continuing application process after being selected by EAA Chapter 234. Attach the essay to this application when applying.



Reference

Ray Scholar Requirements

- Age 16 – 19 for powered flight
- Medical Certificate (at least 3rd Class)
- Had at least one prior EAA Young Eagle flight
- Begin training within 30 days of award
- Complete first solo within 60 days of the award
- Commit to two hours/month of chapter volunteer service
- Complete training in 12 months Ray Scholarship Processes

For a complete list of Scholar requirements please see [Scholar Handbook on the EAA Website](#)

To obtain your Student Pilot Medical contact a local Aviation Medical Examiner:

Darryl Lesoski	Foster Family Community Health Center, 550 Munson Avenue	231-935-8590
Jeffrey V Kyff	1100 Airport Access Rd (45 North)	231-935-5770
Derek Edward Pyne	3074 N US 31 SOUTH	231-929-1234
Nathan Edward March	4290 Copper Ridge Ste 200	231-935-8930

New User Guide - Student Pilot

(Steps in applying for your Student Pilot's License)

Part 1: Starting a Student Application

- Login to IACRA with your username and password. If you don't remember them, follow the "Forgot Username or Password" link.
- Applicant Console
 - You can start a Student Pilot application once you turn 13 years old, but you can't complete it until you're within 90 days of your 14th birthday, or older.
 - From the Applicant Console, you can start new applications and view any existing applications. Click Start New Application
 - Select 'Pilot' from the Application Type dropdown list. This will now show the different types of pilot certificates IACRA has available.
 - Click on Student Pilot. There is no other information required to start a student application, so click Start Application.



Part 2: Student Application Process

- The Application Process page will open, and the Personal Information section will be open. This section will be prepopulated with the information you entered when you registered. If no changes are needed, click the green Save & Continue button in the bottom of this section.
- The Certificate Held section will open. Answer the English Language and Drug Conviction questions. If you have a medical certificate enter it, but it is not required for Student pilots. Click Save & Continue.
- The Basis of Issuance section will open. There is no information needed in this section so click Save & Continue.
- The Pilot Time section will open. There is no information needed in this section so click Save & Continue.
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- The Review and Submit section will open.
 - Answer the Denied Certificate question.
 - Summary information info will be displayed.
 - You must view the Privacy Act and Review your application before you can submit your application. Click Submit Application.
- Your application is **NOT complete** at this point. You must meet with a Certified Flight Instructor, also known as a Recommending Instructor (RI) in IACRA, to complete the process. You must bring valid photo ID to that meeting.

Part 3: Certifying Process

- Once you are within 90 days of your 14th birthday, you will meet with an RI and they look you up using your FTN and they will start the Certifying Checklist.
- The RI will verify your identity and enter ID information. They will also verify your English Language Proficiency and that you meet minimum Student Age requirements.
- After reviewing the application together, the RI will verify that you have reviewed the Privacy Act and the Pilot Bill of Rights.
- You (the applicant) will enter your username and password and then electronically sign the Pilot's Bill of Rights Acknowledgement and the Student Pilot application.
- The RI will reenter their credentials to continue the Checklist.
- The RI will sign and complete your application.
- The temporary Student Pilot certificate will be available on the Applicant Console in about 7 days after **both** these conditions are met:
 - You are at least 14 years old
 - and, you have been successfully vetted by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA)
- Your application will now be electronically sent to the FAA Airman Certification branch.
- Your permanent certificate will arrive by mail.