



Welcome to Aviation	3
Prepare for Takeoff	4-7
Navigating Your Next Steps  How to Stay Engaged in Aviation	8-9
Why Fly?	10-13
Me? Flying? Yes! You Can Be a Pilot Basic Requirements and Types of Certificate	
Pilot Training at a Glance  The Major Steps Involved in Learning to Fly	16-17
What to Expect From Your Mentor How Your Mentor Can Help You Achieve	18-19
Participate, Your Way Other Ways to Get Your Aviation 'Fix'	20-21
EAA: Your Passport to Aviation	22
Report Your Milestones	24





# WELCOME TO AVIATION

We're thrilled you took the opportunity to explore your interest in aviation by participating in EAA Eagle Flights.™ You've taken the first step on the path to a new and exciting world—a world of new possibilities, new experiences, and new friends who share your interest and enthusiasm for flying.

So what exactly is Eagle Flights all about? It's an introduction and mentoring program designed to welcome and encourage adults who want to discover flying but don't know how or where to take that first step.

It begins with a hands-on flight experience, where you'll fly with a local EAA®-member pilot who will let you follow along at the controls to get a feel for what being a pilot is all about. Afterward, your mentor pilot can help you learn more about how to get involved in your local aviation community, including the next steps you can take on the path to becoming a pilot.

The best part? The whole experience is free. No sales. No pressure. Just a whole lot of fun with a big take-home point: Your dream of flying is a lot closer than you think.

So soak up this experience and revel in the excitement of flight. There's nothing like participating in aviation, and EAA Eagle Flights is definitely the place to find the motivation and support to begin your journey.

Now, let's go flying!



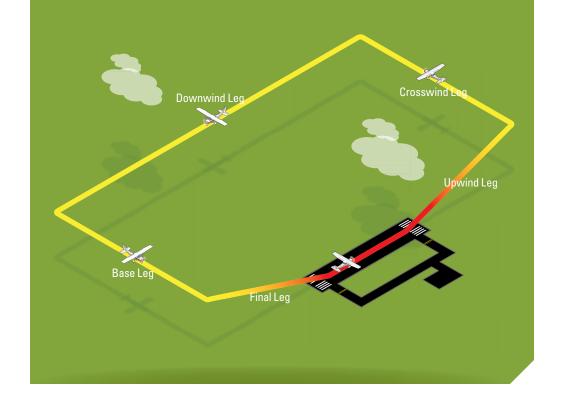
### **Safety Reminders**

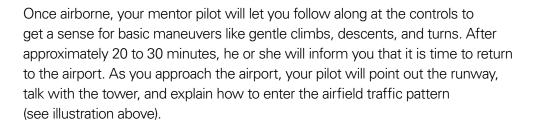
Millions of people fly safely in airplanes every year.
Safety is always a top priority when it comes to aviation.
Listen and follow instructions given by your pilot, stay away from the propellers, and stay with your pilot or ground crew at all times.

If there is something you would like to see from the air such as your house or a local landmark, now is the time to suggest it. It's also a good idea before your flight to tell your pilot why you are interested in taking an Eagle Flight. If you're thinking about learning to fly, talk about what types of flying activities you would like to do once you're a pilot. In doing so, he or she can tailor your flight experience to address your specific needs and desires.

Next, you and your mentor pilot will climb aboard the aircraft and fasten your seat belts and shoulder harnesses. He or she will then start the engine, check all flight controls and systems, and taxi onto the runway. Your pilot will then line the aircraft up with the centerline and advance the throttle to full power.

# Meet Your Pilot The pilots who participate in the Eagle Flights program are local members of EAA who are volunteering their time and aircraft to make your flight possible. Each pilot is certificated with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and flights will be conducted according to federal regulations.





Once you're back on the ground, ask questions about your flight, the aircraft, and the next steps you can take on your aviation journey. Your mentor pilot will also talk you through your official EAA Eagle Flights logbook, which is included at the back of this booklet. Inside that logbook, you'll find more information about EAA's flight training milestone recognition program as well as how you may be able to apply for valuable scholarships through EAA and its aviation partners.



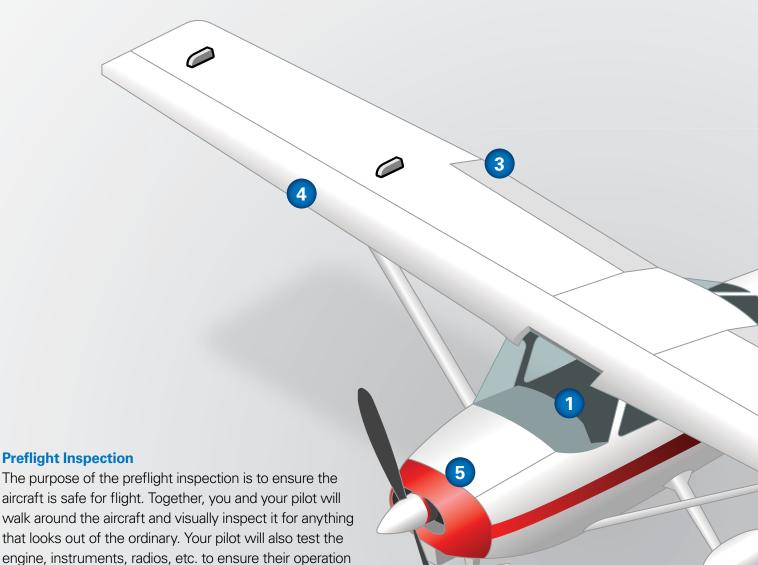












### 1. Cockpit

- Ensure that all required paperwork is on board
- Remove control wheel lock
- Ignition switch—OFF

is ready for flight.

- Master switch—ON
- Check fuel quantity
- Lower flaps
- Master switch—OFF
- Fuel valve—ON

### 2. Empennage

Control surfaces—check freedom of movement and security

### 3. Right Wing (trailing edge)

- Right flap—check sliders and security of flap
- Right aileron—check freedom of movement and security

### 4. Right Wing

- Inspect leading edge and upper surface of wing
- Remove wing tiedown
- Main wheel tire—check for proper inflation
- Drain a small quantity of fuel from the right tank drain valve and check for water, sediment, and proper fuel grade
- Fuel quantity—check visually for desired level
- Secure fuel cap



### 5. Nose

- Check oil level
- Pull fuel strainer drain knob, collect fuel sample, check for water and/or sediment
- Inspect inside cowling
- Inspect nose wheel and fairing
- Propeller and spinner—check for nicks and security
- Check alternator belt
- Ensure air intake filter is unobstructed
- Landing light(s)—check for condition and cleanliness
- Inspect static source opening

- Inspect leading edge and upper surface of wing
- Main wheel tire—check for proper inflation
- Drain a small quantity of fuel from the right tank drain valve and check for water, sediment, and proper fuel grade
- Fuel quantity—check visually for desired level
- Secure fuel cap

### 7. Left Wing (leading edge)

- Inspect pitot tube
- Check stall warning device and fuel tank vent opening
- Remove wing tiedown

### 8. Left Wing (trailing edge)

- Left flap—check sliders and security of flap
- Left aileron—check freedom of movement and security













### **Thinking About Learning to Fly?**

Your Eagle Flights mentor pilot can help you move along the path toward pilot certification. As an experienced aviator, he or she can answer your questions about flight training, help you find a good flight instructor in your area, and even provide a little motivation and support to help you start—and finish—your pilot training.

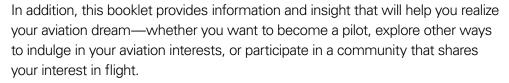


### **Just Got Planes on the Brain?**

Your mentor pilot can help you learn more about the opportunities to participate in your local aviation community, including how to get involved with your local EAA chapter. There, you'll meet other pilots and aviation enthusiasts who revel in the fun and camaraderie of flying all year long through a variety of activities and events, such as fly-ins, fly-outs, aircraft building workshops, Young Eagles® rallies, and more.

See page 20 for more ways to engage in aviation.





No matter what path you want to take, EAA has something to fit your aviation lifestyle. So, what are you waiting for? Read on to discover all the possibilities that await you.

















"The experience of witnessing the birth of a new day from 500 feet above the ground lasts only a few minutes, but it ranks as one of the most important reasons I love to fly."

> Bern Heimos, EAA 538444 Laguna Niguel, California

reasons you should consider becoming a pilot.

### You Get to Experience the Freedom of Flight

There's nothing quite like the experience of flying your own aircraft. No matter where you fly, there's something about being up in the air that gives you a sense of freedom and exhilaration unlike any other.



### You Can't Beat the View

Flying gives you a whole new perspective. You'll witness unforgettable sights seen only from the air, like the peaceful glow of a city at night, the dramatic change in leaves during the fall, and the spectacular orange and gold sky as the sun fades below the horizon. Even after years of flying, pilots are still inspired and awed by the aesthetics of flight.

### You Become Part of a Close-Knit Community

A pilot certificate is the start of a life-changing adventure. It's also instant membership into the world's largest extended family of fellow fliers. As a new pilot, you'll soon discover that the aviation community is inhabited by good people who are always willing to extend a handshake or helping hand to those who share their passion and commitment to flying. What's more, the very fact that you're a pilot seems to inspire conversation and interest among those who don't fly. Maybe it's because of the rarity of your status; only about 0.2 percent of the American population holds a pilot certificate.

### You Become Your Own Personal Airline

When you fly your own airplane, you decide when and where you want to go. There are no baggage fees, no security checks, and no racing to catch a flight—only to have it delayed. What's more, as a general aviation pilot you have access to more than 5,400 public-use airports across the country, most of which are not served by the commercial airlines. That means you'll find an airport closer to your destination. And getting to your destination once you've landed is rarely an issue, since most small airports have a car rental facility nearby or will even provide you with a free loaner vehicle (with the expectation that you fill it up with gas).

### You Get to Share the Experience

One of the greatest rewards of becoming a pilot is being able to share the flying experience with family and friends. You can enjoy romantic flying dates with your significant other, fly with a friend to a nearby airport to grab lunch, or take the whole family on a weekend vacation a few states away. Many pilots also enjoy giving back to the aviation community or supporting a cause by volunteering in programs like EAA Young Eagles (providing introductory flights to youth ages 8-17), Patient Airlift Services (providing free air transportation for individuals requiring medical care or other humanitarian purposes), and Pilots N Paws (providing free air transportation for animals in need).





"The overall greatest experience was giving my children their first airplane ride."

Erin Brueggen, EAA 842349 Oshkosh, Wisconsin

"Many facets of aviation make it particularly exciting for me: freedom, challenge, and exploration. It's an activity that allows us to exercise and develop not only our motor skills and coordination, but our cognitive abilities as well."

Bob Rossier, 472091 San Diego, California



### You Can Incorporate Flying With Other Activities You Love

Taking up flying doesn't have to take away from the time you spend enjoying your other hobbies and interests. In fact, flying is an excellent way to elevate many of the activities you already enjoy doing. Are you an avid golfer? Fly to an airport with a golf course nearby! Enjoy photography? Flying your own airplane gives you some breathtaking views and a whole new set of subjects to capture. Love to fish? Fly into the backcountry woods and find that remote fishing hole you've always dreamed about. Your airplane makes a great base camp, too. There's nothing like pitching a tent under your wing.

### You Can Challenge Yourself

Learning to fly is fun, rewarding, and a great personal challenge. You will feel an incredible sense of accomplishment as you progress through the stages of learning to fly. Even after you become a pilot, you can continue your aviation education by upgrading your pilot certificate or earning additional ratings. Want to be able to fly through the rain and fog? Get your instrument rating. Maybe you've always wanted to fly vintage aircraft like the J-3 Cub? For that you'll want a tailwheel rating. Looking to land on lakes and other bodies of water? Get your floatplane rating. Maybe you're someone who loves to compete. Learn to fly aerobatics. You can also move up to high-performance aircraft with retractable landing gear and multiple engines if you wish. Aviation is an endless source of learning and challenge.





### You Don't Have to Be Rich

There are some people out there who are convinced that flying is a luxury that only rich people can afford. In reality, the vast majority of people in general aviation are far from wealthy. While learning to fly isn't inexpensive, in comparison with many of life's expenses, it's actually more affordable than most people think. One key benefit to flight training is that you can pay for lessons as you go. Therefore, the cost of learning to fly can be spread out over the length of your training.

Once you become a pilot, there are many ways to reduce or share the costs of flying, such as joining a flying club or fractional ownership with other like-minded pilots. The best part is that you don't even have to own an airplane to fly. Instead, you can rent an airplane, much like you would a car. Aircraft rentals are typically charged by the hour, but, unlike a car, you're only charged for the time that the engine is running.

### You Have Always Wanted to Fly

Perhaps the best reason to become a pilot is that you've always wanted to. There's nothing in the world like learning to fly, and if that's always been your dream, it's an adventure worth taking.

"Ever since I built my first model airplane as a kid, I have wanted to fly. I'd lie on my back and stare deep into the sky and dream of flying. Every time I heard an airplane fly overhead I'd stare at it."

Ray Ordorica, EAA 882055









































Visit EAA.org/PilotCertificates to learn more about the privileges and restrictions of each pilot certificate.

It's an attainable dream. You don't need to fit a certain mold to become a pilot or enjoy flying. You can learn the skills, build the confidence, and make the exciting transition from passenger seat to pilot in command. All you need to do is take the first step—and keep going. Your Eagle Flights mentor pilot can help you along the way.

So, what does it take to become a pilot? Here are the basic requirements:

- Be at least 17 years old (16 for gliders)
- Be able to read, write, and speak English
- Hold a valid U.S. driver's license (for a sport pilot certificate) or a third-class airman's medical certificate (for a private pilot certificate)

Beyond that, nothing is stopping you from achieving your dream of flight.

### **Pick Your Pilot Type**

Learning to fly can be an exciting, life-altering, attitude-changing experience. Along the way, you'll face challenges, but you'll have a lot of fun as you build your confidence and hours toward earning a sport pilot or private pilot certificate.

So, which pilot certificate is right for you? The overriding factor in deciding which way to go in your flight training is this: What is the main reason you want to fly? If you're more interested in flying for fun than for transportation, a sport pilot certificate may be the perfect fit.



In basic terms, a sport pilot certificate will allow you to fly in a variety of two-place aircraft during daylight hours in good weather. It's the quickest, least expensive pilot certificate to earn, and you won't need to pass an aviation physical exam. The best part is that all of your sport pilot training can be applied toward a private pilot certificate if you wish to advance your flying skills and activities.

On the other hand, a private pilot certificate will allow you to fly two-, four-, and even six-place airplanes day or night. The trade-off is greater time and expense. But for that, you get greater flexibility, including access to additional kinds of airplanes you can rent, the places you can go, and the number of passengers you can carry. Each certificate has its place depending on your wants and needs, and both are equally good starting points.





















### FIRST FLIGHT LESSON

When you climb into the airplane for your first flight lesson, you're no longer a passenger or observer. In fact, you'll be taking the controls of the airplane and begin learning how to fly from Day 1.

### **SOLO FLIGHT**

One of the major milestones in learning to fly is the completion of your first solo flight. This typically involves performing three takeoffs and landings while the instructor watches from the ground.

### **CROSS-COUNTRY**

An important element of your flight training will entail you conducting a "trip" in the airplane. That is, you'll depart from one airport and land at one or more different airports before returning to your home field. This exercise will ensure your ability to fly and navigate.



For more nuts-and-bolts information on learning to fly, visit **EAA.org/LearnToFly**.

# N THE GR

### STUDY, PRACTICE, LEARN

During the first part of your training, you will study the rules, regulations, and aeronautical knowledge that explain the magic of flight. There are many good self-study courses available or you may take a ground school course at a local flight school or community college.

### STUDENT PILOT CERTIFICATE

(Medical Exam)

Before you engage in solo flight training, you will need a student pilot certificate issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Students pursuing a private pilot certificate must pass a basic aviation medical exam, which also serves as a student pilot certificate.





### **ADVANCE YOUR SKILLS**

After you complete your solo and cross-country flights, you'll spend time practicing your flying maneuvers and landings in preparation for your checkride.





### **CHECKRIDE**

The final test necessary to earn a pilot certificate is called the practical test or checkride. The test involves both oral questions to determine your basic aviation knowledge and an actual flight to assess your skills. You'll fly with an FAA Designated Pilot Examiner who will measure your knowledge, practices, and proficiencies at the controls.



### PILOT RATING

After you earn your pilot certificate, you will likely be looking for every possible opportunity to get out and fly. You might plan an ambitious coast-to-coast trip, fly away with a friend for a weekend getaway, or spend a few hours practicing at the local airport. Maybe you'll use your newly acquired skills to travel for business. Whatever your plan—however simple or extravagant—you will find reward in simply enjoying the freedom and privileges of a pilot.







### **WRITTEN EXAM**

Once you've completed your ground school training, you'll receive a recommendation from your instructor stating that you are ready to take the FAA Knowledge Test. This is often referred to as the "written" test because it's a multiple-choice exam.
You must score 70 percent or better to pass.





Learning to fly is a challenging endeavor, but the steps involved can be made easier with the help, mentoring, and friendship of those already in aviation. Your Eagle Flights mentor pilot knows what it's like to be a newcomer in the aviation world, and he or she can help make your flight training the best it can be. Here's how.

### **Finding Instruction**

The availability of flight instruction and the sources of that flight instruction will be unique to your geographic area. Your Eagle Flights mentor pilot will be able to recommend a flight instructor with whom he or she has had good experiences or help you locate a reputable training facility, flying club, or school in your area. Once you have a handful of suggestions, pay a visit to each school/instructor and maybe take an introductory flight lesson. During that time, explain why you want to fly and what types of flying activities you wish to do once you're a pilot. You should be looking for a flight instructor who recognizes and understands the goals you're setting and is willing to work with them.

There are lots of flight instructors, but only one you. Learn how to find the right match at EAA.org/FlightInstructors





### **Overcoming Training Hurdles**

Anyone who starts flight training will, at some time or another, run into a phenomenon that has many names and descriptions. It's the bump in the road or the flat spot in the learning curve. It may be stalls or 360-degree steep turns. Maybe it's judging the flare altitude on landing or defeating those crosswinds. Your Eagle Flights mentor pilot can make you aware of the common obstacles that many student pilots face and help you overcome them with supportive advice. Remember, these hurdles can seem insurmountable at first, but as you develop your skills they will be as second-nature as riding a bike.

### **Communication**

How often you communicate with your Eagle Flights mentor pilot will be determined by the pace of your flight training, how much support you may need from him or her, and your individual schedules. There are many different ways that mentors and Eagles come together, so there is no single best way to communicate with each other. We do recommend that you try to keep in touch, perhaps through local EAA chapter meetings or via electronic means. The most important thing is that you communicate with your mentor and let him or her know how you are doing.











your aviation fix.

### Attend EAA® AirVenture® Oshkosh™

It is the World's Greatest Aviation Celebration®. Nowhere else will you see the variety of aircraft, attend more forums, or meet more aviation enthusiasts than at Oshkosh each summer in July. Start your planning now at EAA.org/AirVenture.

### Join an EAA Chapter

Need a great reason to meet other pilots and aviation enthusiasts while exploring your interest in aviation? Join an EAA chapter, develop relationships, and become an active member in your local aviation community. Local chapters are involved in a large variety of social and educational activities—so there's something for everyone. Find a chapter near you or learn how to start one at EAA.org/Chapters.

### **Build an Airplane**

You already know that flying is special and building an airplane would make it even more special. Pick the project that's right for you and get started. EAA has a wealth of information and resources on building your own airplane. Go to EAA.org/Homebuilders for more information.













### **Plane Spotting**

Visit your local airport and try identifying airplanes as they arrive, depart, and fly overhead. There are some people out there who even like to make a game out of it, competing to see who can "collect" the most aircraft of some type, style, or brand.



Sometimes the best part of flying takes place on the ground. Many pilots and aviation enthusiasts enjoy hangar flying—that is, sitting around the hangar or local aviation hangout and discussing flying.

### **Read an Aviation Book**

Ernest Gann's Fate Is the Hunter, any of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's books, and Wolfgang Langewiesche's Stick and Rudder are all classics. Have you read them?

### **Build and Fly a Free-Flight or Radio-Controlled Model Airplane**

Model building is a great winter activity and way to involve your family. The Academy of Model Aeronautics, ModelAircraft.org, can get you started.

### **Volunteer With an Aviation Charity**

The Air Care Alliance is a good place to find out about public service flying—whether it's patient transport, disaster relief, or environmental support. Visit AirCareAll.org for more information.

### **Visit One of the Great Aviation Museums**

There are 900 aviation museums in the United States and Canada, and there's a guidebook to help you find them. It's cleverly titled *Guide to 900 Aircraft Museums, USA & Canada*. Plus your EAA membership qualifies you for free or reduced admission to more than 300 museums that are part of the Association and Science Technology Centers Passport Program. Visit ASTC.org to learn more.

### Volunteer at an Aviation Museum or Fly-In

Experience the camaraderie of the aviation community and learn more about the world of flight while meeting new people.

### **Watch a Classic Aviation Movie**

Settle back with an aviation film and get your flying fix from the comfort of your couch. Visit Aerofiles.com and click on "Films and TV" for an alphabetical listing of almost every aviation film ever made.

### **Take a Ground School Course**

It's a great first step to earning your pilot certificate as you learn the forces of flight (thrust, drag, lift, and gravity), airspace rules, navigation, and much more. It can be done in a class or on your own—online or by book.

















You'll receive a complimentary, six-month EAA membership shortly after we receive confirmation of your Eagle Flight. As an EAA member, you'll receive six issues of our award-wining magazine, *EAA Sport Aviation*, as well as a monthly e-mail packed with useful information and tips on flight training, upcoming events in your area, and how to get the most out of your EAA membership.

As an EAA member, you'll also be eligible to join one of our nearly 1,000 local EAA chapters worldwide. These groups are the ideal gathering place for you to meet other EAA members and participate in a variety of aviation events and activities at the local level. Chapter members participate in aircraft building projects, Young Eagles rallies, fly-ins, airport open houses, and even pancake breakfasts.

You will have the opportunity to renew your EAA membership after six months. At a cost of just \$40 a year, it might be the best investment in your new favorite pastime that you'll ever make. From members-only benefits and flight training resources to countless opportunities to participate in the fun of flying all year long, you'll quickly realize that your EAA membership more than pays for itself time and time again.

For more information about EAA's Eagle Flights program or your EAA membership, or if you have more questions about flight training, please visit EAA.org/EagleFlights or give us a call at 800-557-2376.





## ADULT AGREEMENT TO WAIVE LIABILITY, ASSUME RISK, AND INDEMNIFY; RELEASE FOR USE OF PHOTOS AND IMAGES

Pilot	
FIIOL	

In consideration of being offered a ride (a "Flight Experience") in an aircraft (the "Aircraft") piloted by the Pilot identified above, I, the Participant signing this Agreement below, agree as follows:

Assumption of Risk - I understand that flying in aircraft and being around aircraft involves risks. Serious injury or death can result from many causes, including without limitation aircraft crashes, falls, pilot error, ground crew error, engine or mechanical failure, negligent maintenance, defects in runways, interference by wildlife and other objects, difficult search and rescue conditions, inadequate emergency response, weather or terrain conditions, contaminated fuel, or hard or forced landings. Injuries could be minor such as bruises, scratches and sprains, major such as eye injuries, broken bones and concussions, or catastrophic such as paralysis, severe burns or death. I understand and accept that the Pilot holds a current pilot certificate issued by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration ("FAA") and is current in the Aircraft, but is not necessarily licensed as a Commercial Pilot. I also understand that the Aircraft will be either type-certified by the FAA or a Light Sport aircraft or an Experimental aircraft that is approved for flight by the FAA under a Special Airworthiness Certificate. I (for myself, my heirs, family members, personal representatives and assigns) assume all risks and full responsibility for any injury or death arising from participating in a Flight Experience.

Agreement to Waive Liability and Not to Sue - I (for myself, my heirs, family members, personal representatives and assigns) hereby release and discharge: (a) Experimental Aircraft Association, Inc.; (b) EAA Aviation Foundation, Inc. ("Foundation"); (c) the EAA Chapter (if any) that has organized or supported my Flight Experience; (d) the officers, directors, members, employees, agents, divisions, affiliates and volunteers of each of those corporations; and (e) the Pilot identified above and any ground crew involved in my Flight Experience (collectively, the "Releasees") from, and agree not to sue the Releasees or any of them for, any and all claims against any of the Releasees for any injury or death arising from my participation in a Flight Experience, or any of the circumstances related to my Flight Experience. This release, discharge and agreement not to sue applies to

all legal rights, including those resulting from any negligence of Releasees, other than those resulting from the gross negligence or willful misconduct of such Releasee.

Indemnification - Lagree to indemnify and hold the Releasees harmless from any claims, costs, damages, and liabilities, including attorney's fees, arising from my participation in a Flight Experience. This duty to indemnify and hold the Releasees harmless applies even if any of the Releasees is negligent; however, indemnification of any Releasee is not required if such Releasee is grossly negligent or has engaged in willful misconduct.

Photo and Image Release – I hereby give the Releasees the absolute and irrevocable right and permission to use photographs, pictures and/or images of myself taken at or derived from my participation in a Flight Experience (the "Images") in whole or in part, with or without alteration or modification, in any and/or all manner and in any and/or all media, in connection with EAA's or the Foundation's activities, programs, publications and publicity.

**Representation and Warranty** – I hereby represent and warrant that I am at least eighteen (18) years of age and am not restricted from entering into this Waiver and Release Agreement, and that I have read it in its entirety prior to executing it; also, that I have received the EAA brochure "Your Guide to the Aviation Experience - EAA Eagle Flights®."

Legal Advice - I know that I can talk to my legal advisor about this Agreement and I have either done so or chosen not to. I understand that I have the right and have been given the opportunity to object to and bargain about the provisions of this Agreement. Lam voluntarily signing this Agreement and intend it to be the unconditional release of all liability to the greatest extent allowed by law.

### BEFORE SIGNING, CAREFULLY READ THIS ENTIRE AGREEMENT

**NOTE:** If an accident were to occur, you (by signing this Agreement) would be giving up legal rights and incurring legal liabilities. If any part of this Agreement is held invalid, the rest of the provisions shall remain in effect. If you do not understand anything in this Agreement, you should not sign it and you should talk to your legal advisor.

Participant's Signature:	Date:
Participant's Name (please print):	