

**Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA)  
Chapter 857  
James C. Ray Flight Training Scholarship  
General Information CY2025**

*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 very rewarding and will, in many ways, change your life.

The Private Pilot Flight Training Scholarship opportunity currently available is for individuals' ages 16 to 19 (at the start of flight training).

The maximum scholarship award amount for the private pilot certificate is **\$11,000**.

Flight training is tailored to individual abilities. It is possible the private pilot certificate can be completed at a cost below the \$11,000 award limit. *However, it is also possible 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 857 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. The scholar will have **60 days** following award notification to choose a flight training school / instructor and complete the first training flight, **3 months** to complete the first solo, **6 months** to complete the FAA written exam, and **one year** to take the FAA Practical Exam (check ride).

The scholar will commit to a minimum of two volunteer hours per month for the local EAA chapter.

A *Third Class FAA medical certificate* and a *student pilot certificate* are required prior to training. If you are selected for the scholarship, a local EAA member will help you understand and complete these requirements.

It is important to remember that our scholar nominee is not approved for the program until application and final review by EAA National is completed. Our chapter coordinator will assist the selected scholar with their application to EAA National.

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

More information about EAA Chapter 857 can be found at:  
<https://chapters.eaa.org/ea857>

*We are glad you have taken the first step by applying with EAA Chapter 857*

**EAA Chapter 857  
James C. Ray Flight Training Scholarship  
Application Instructions CY2025**

**EAA Chapter 857 Application Instructions:**

There are three parts to this application:

1. The following pages of the application form are intended to be self-explanatory. Please complete them to the extent possible and attach the requested essay. It is not expected that every question will apply to your circumstances. Forward your application to the address below. Hardcopy via US Postal Service or electronic copy via E-Mail is acceptable.
2. Student Scholastic Record (transcript dated within 30 days of application). Direct your school to send a transcript to the address below.
3. Letter of recommendation from an instructor, employer, or teacher, dated within 30 days of application. This letter must come from a non-family member. You must include the Email address of the individual who will be writing the applicant's letter of recommendation.
4. Last page of applicant's pilot logbook (if already flying).

Should be mailed or emailed to the address below:

Kyle Riedel, Ray Scholarship Coordinator  
508 Day Star Court  
Cranberry Township, PA 16066  
Email: riedel.kyle@yahoo.com  
Cell 910-322-5305

**The deadline to apply for the 2025 Ray Aviation Scholarship through EAA Chapter 857 is January 1st, 2025.**

**EAA Chapter 857  
James C. Ray Flight Training Scholarship  
Application CY2025 — Page 1**

**APPLICANT INFORMATION** (Please Type or Print Clearly)

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant email address \_\_\_\_\_

Have you flown with an EAA pilot as a Young Eagle? Yes\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Have you attended EAA's Air Academy in Oshkosh, WI? Yes\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Does anyone in your immediate family own an aircraft or have a flying club membership?

Yes\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ If yes, explain. \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT / LEGAL GUARDIAN INFORMATION** (Please Type or Print Clearly)

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Signatures:**

Applicant (student) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Legal Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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James C. Ray Flight Training Scholarship  
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**Education:**

Where do you attend school? \_\_\_\_\_

What year of school are you in? \_\_\_\_\_

What STEM courses have you taken, or do you plan to take? \_\_\_\_\_

What other activities are you currently engaged in? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you plan to pursue higher education, or military service? Please explain \_\_\_\_\_

**Flight Training:**

Are you participating in Sporty's "Learn to Fly" Course? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If yes, what chapters completed? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a flight school or flying club in mind if you are selected as a Ray Aviation Scholar? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If so, please list it here, along with any website address. \_\_\_\_\_

What type of aircraft would you learn to fly in at this school/club? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you already have any flight training experience? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If so, please briefly describe and provide an electronic copy of the last page of your logbook: \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_

Do you have a current FAA medical? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

**Essay:**

In the applicant's own words, a 150-250 word explanation on why they should be selected for this award. Essay must be typed — no more than one page, double-spaced, 12-point Times Roman font. You may include personal accomplishments, academic and aviation interests, career goals, and any other information to supplement or clarify your answers above.