

# 2026 Aviation Scholarships



Inspire Aviation is an Ohio based 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity. Our mission is to help educate the general public in areas of Aviation and other STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math) related topics. In keeping with these goals, 2026 will be our 7th year of awarding scholarships for flight training and STEM education, to those who share our passion and wish to promote General Aviation. These scholarships are co-sponsored by Avit Flight Academy.

The awarding of these scholarships and funds shall be administered by Inspire Aviation and will be used solely for the purposes described. Aviation training funds are only redeemable at Avit Flight Academy. Applicants shall be a US citizen, at least 16 years of age as of Aug 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026, and reside in Ohio. Applicants for the Private Pilot scholarship must reside within a reasonable commuting distance of Wadsworth Airport to complete training. Successful applicants will demonstrate a strong passion in general aviation, have the motivation to complete the rigorous training program, and be academically responsible & involved in their community. The private pilot scholarship winner shall obtain at least a 3rd class Medical Certificate, at their own expense, before the scholarship funds are placed on account. (See Federal Aviation Regulations 67 and 61.23 for details). Scholarships are awarded based on merit and interest in a career in the aviation industry. There will be no discrimination based on age, sex, color, race, religious belief, national origin, disability, or genetic information.

The Selection Committee will consist of at least five members with the Inspire Aviation Board President serving as the Chair of the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee will have full and final authority in selecting the winning candidate; and *may* require an interview to finalize selections.

**4 separate scholarships will be awarded;** provided suitable candidates apply. Applicants may apply for more than one scholarship but must do so individually.

**Anthony Marshall Private Pilot training (\$3,000) or the Greg Peters Memorial Pilot training (\$2,000):** funds will be placed on account at Avit Flight Academy, Wadsworth OH, for the student pilot to conduct Private Pilot level training. Student will also receive free mentoring or tutoring from our staff of volunteer instructors.

Note: 40 flights hours and age 17 are the min requirements to become a FAA licensed pilot. This scholarship allows someone with no flight time to start their training or someone who is already in training to work towards finishing their training but does not fund an entire training program.

**Bob Heidbreder Aviation Scholarship or the Aeronautical Education Scholarship: \$1,500 (2 available):** funds may be used at Avit Flight Academy, Wadsworth OH, for any flight training or funds may be used for STEM related education at a college, university, Balloon Federation of America Camp, Space Camp, FAA 107 Drone certification, or other program approved by the selection committee. In any case these funds will be sent directly to the educational facility.

**All applicants will receive 4 free tickets to Props and Pistons Festival.**

Scholarship winners are invited and highly encouraged to attend our VIP dinner on Friday Aug 14<sup>th</sup> 2026. Upon notification of selection, you are required to supply a suitable photograph or meet with our photographer for individual photos. (This photo may be used for publicity/marketing and by providing the photo constitutes permission to use the photo for this purpose.)

Applications must be postmarked or emailed on or before the date prescribed. Under no circumstances will late applications be considered. We are not responsible for applications lost in the mail and encourage email as the primary means to apply. If you do not get a confirmation email within 5 days, please follow-up at 330-807-4065.

Use of the scholarships will be completed within one year from award. In the event the recipient does not make satisfactory progress or does not conduct himself or herself in a manner consistent with the standards of the school, Inspire Aviation has the right to revoke the award. Inspire Aviation retains the right to request progress reports from the training facility. Inspire Aviation may exercise judgment as to whether training can be deferred for a reasonable period on a case-by-case basis. Previous winners may not be awarded the same scholarship again but are encouraged to apply for the others.

The winners will be **notified on or about July 1st**, of each year. Below is the application to be filled out by the applicant:

.....**Detach and return bottom portion by May 15th 2026**.....

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I meet the minimum age, medical, and other requirements detailed above: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Application for (select one per application):

Anthony Marshall or the Greg Peters flight training scholarships: \_\_\_\_\_

Bob Heidbreder or the Aeronautical Education scholarships: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe in a 2-3 page narrative your interest in aviation (hobby or as a career), how you became interested, include any previous aviation (or STEM) education, and what your goals are if selected. Also of interest is any community service, school accomplishments & GPA, or other notable experiences that would benefit you in your career. Include two letters of recommendation from non-relatives in support of your application.

Additionally, for the Bob Heidbreder Aviation or Aeronautical Aviation Education scholarship only, detail exactly **where and how** you will use the funds (college tuition, train for a specific flight rating, fees and associated travel cost to attend a Space or Balloon Federation of America camp, etc).

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed forms (one for each scholarship if applying to more than one) to:

Inspire Aviation

2105 Greenwich Rd

Wadsworth OH 44281

or via Email to: [mike@inspireaviation.org](mailto:mike@inspireaviation.org)