

## **Jump Start Program Description**

EAA Chapter 729 has an active program to train local high school students how to fly. We work in conjunction with the Ray Scholar program through the EAA national organization to fund this Private Pilot training. Our hope is to expand and improve this program through an early candidate selection process that we call “Jump Start”. This process will fund \*up to 6 local high school candidates for the following activities in preparation for private pilot training.

- FAA Medical (Required to operate as Pilot in Command)
- Private Pilot Ground School (Required for Private Pilot Written Exam)
- Discovery Flight (Introductory flight to aviation)
- FAA Private Pilot Airplane Written Test Prep and Examination Fee (Required for Private Pilot's License)
- Three hours of Dual Flight Instruction (Integral for student exposure on deciding if flying is right for them as well as instructor perspective on student aptitude)

Completion of the Jump Start process will allow us to select the best candidate for the Ray Scholar Private Pilot training program.

One of the biggest challenges when beginning flight training is a lack of understanding of the dedication and effort required to earn a pilot's license. Through the “Jump Start” program, our goal is to clearly and accurately demonstrate the level of time commitment and work necessary for success. This not only helps prospective students determine whether flight training is the right fit, but also allows our scholarship committee to evaluate candidates in a real-world setting, ultimately setting our awardees up for success from the very beginning.

## **Project Goals and Anticipated Outcome**

Get 4-6 high school (16.5-19 year old) students completed through the Jump Start Program.

## **Secondary Goals and Anticipated Outcomes**

Foster enthusiasm for aviation among younger students while providing meaningful opportunities to overcome the initial cost barrier to entry and develop realistic expectations for training.

## **Population/Geographic Area Served**

All of Bartholomew County and – high school students interested in aviation.

Bartholomew County and surrounding areas where students have the ability to be active and present members of the chapter

## **Project Timeline**

\* Please refer to the annual “Jump Start Application” or “Jump Start Important Date Sheet” for specific dates associated with the current scholarship cycle.

| Month                           | Milestone                            | Action Items                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Month 1</b>                  | Program Launch                       | Publicly launch the Jump Start Program and begin accepting applications.                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Month 1 (Weeks 1–2)</b>      | Information Session                  | Conduct a Jump Start and Ray Scholarship Information Meeting covering program expectations, application requirements, and scholarship opportunities.                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Month 1 (End of Month)</b>   | Jump Start (JS) Application Deadline | Jump Start Program applications close.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Month 2 (First Thursday)</b> | Board Review (JS)                    | Board of Directors reviews Jump Start applications and selects recipients during the monthly board meeting.                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Month 2 (Following Day)</b>  | Notifications (JS)                   | Selected Jump Start participants are notified of their acceptance.                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Month 2 (Week 1)</b>         | Program Prerequisites                | Participants complete: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FAA Medical Certificate</li> <li>• Ground School</li> <li>• FAA Knowledge Test</li> <li>• Discovery Flight</li> </ul>                                                                                     |
| <b>Month 2 (Week 1)</b>         | Ray Scholarship Opens                | Ray Scholarship application period begins.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Month 2 (Weeks 2–4)</b>      | Flight Training Phase                | Participants complete three sponsored dual flight instruction lessons.<br>Training should be completed within approximately 1.5 weeks whenever possible.<br>Exceptions may be granted for weather, maintenance, scheduling conflicts, or other extenuating circumstances. |
| <b>Month 3 (Week 1)</b>         | Ray Application Deadline             | Ray Scholarship applications close.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Month 3 (Week 2)</b>         | Jump Start Program Completion        | Jump Start applicants are required to submit their program reflections and the program is considered officially ended.                                                                                                                                                    |

|                                 |                                      |                                                                                                            |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Month 3 (Week 2)</b>         | Ray Scholar (RS) Interview Selection | Ray Scholarship interview candidates are selected.                                                         |
| <b>Month 3 (Weeks 3–4)</b>      | Ray Scholar Interviews               | Conduct Ray Scholarship interviews.                                                                        |
| <b>Month 4 (First Thursday)</b> | Ray Scholar Selection                | Board of Directors selects the Ray Scholarship recipient during the monthly board meeting.                 |
| <b>Month 4 (Following Day)</b>  | Notification (RS)                    | Selected Ray Scholar is notified.                                                                          |
| <b>Month 4 (Third Thursday)</b> | Public Recognition                   | Official presentation and recognition of the Ray Scholarship recipient at the monthly EAA Chapter meeting. |

## Project Goals, Procedures, and Intentions

### Program Launch

- The Jump Start Program will be publicly launched through a coordinated outreach effort designed to maximize awareness and participation among eligible youth. Program promotion will include:
  - Social media announcements through Chapter communication channels.
  - Chapter-wide email distribution.
  - Printed promotional materials displayed within the Aviation Youth Center (AYC), airport facilities, local schools, and other appropriate community locations.
  - Direct outreach by Aviation Youth Center facilitators to active students and qualified prospective applicants.
- The Jump Start Program application will be hosted on the EAA Chapter 729 Ray Scholarship webpage.

*\*To streamline the scholarship process, the Jump Start Program application will utilize a modified version of the Ray Scholarship application. Applicants who successfully complete the Jump Start Program will not be required to submit a second application for Ray Scholarship consideration. However, Jump Start participants seeking Ray Scholarship consideration must notify the scholarship committee of their intent via email prior to the Ray Scholarship application deadline.*

### Information Session

- The Information Session will be hosted by Kate Russell at the EAA Chapter 729 Hangar
- The session will provide an overview of:
  - The Jump Start Program, including eligibility requirements and selection criteria.

- The Ray Scholarship, including eligibility requirements and selection criteria.
- Flight training expectations and requirements.
- Aviation career and recreational pathways, including professional aviation careers, personal flying opportunities, and other avenues for long-term involvement in general aviation.
- Attendance is strongly encouraged for all prospective applicants and their parents or guardians.
- A copy of the presentation materials will be posted to the EAA Chapter 729 Ray Scholarship webpage following the meeting.

### **Jump Start (JS) Application Deadline**

- Completed applications and all supporting documentation must be submitted electronically **as PDF files** to:  
[eaachapter729rayscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:eaachapter729rayscholarship@gmail.com)
- The email subject line shall follow the format:  
"First Name Last Name: Jump Start Program Application"
- Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all materials are properly named, complete, and submitted directly by the applicant.

### **Board Review (JS)**

- During the designated Board of Directors meeting, board members will review all completed applications and select candidates to receive Jump Start Program awards.
- Selection decisions will be based upon application quality, demonstrated commitment to aviation, program readiness, and available funding.

### **Notifications (JS)**

- Selected applicants will be notified by telephone on the Friday immediately following the Board of Directors meeting.
- Applicants who are not selected will receive notification via email and will be encouraged to continue pursuing aviation opportunities, including consideration for the Ray Scholarship program when eligible.

### **Jump Start Phase 1 "Prerequisites"**

- During the first phase of the Jump Start Program, participants must successfully complete the following prerequisites:
  - FAA Medical Certificate
  - Ground School
  - FAA Knowledge (Written) Test
  - Discovery Flight
- Participants who fail to successfully complete any prerequisite requirement may be removed from the program prior to advancing to Phase 2.

\*The scholarship committee recognizes that unforeseen circumstances may occur. Weather delays, medical issues, scheduling conflicts, maintenance events, and other extenuating circumstances will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

### **Ray Scholarship Opens**

- The Ray Scholarship application period will open following Jump Start participant selection.
- This secondary application period allows individuals who did not participate in the Jump Start Program to remain eligible for Ray Scholarship consideration.
- Successful completion of the Jump Start Program will be considered favorably during the Ray Scholarship selection process.

### **Jump Start Phase 2 “Flight Training”**

- Participants will complete three sponsored dual flight instruction lessons through a flight school approved by the scholarship committee.
- Program expectations include:
  - Completion of three instructional flight lessons within approximately 1.5 weeks whenever practical.
  - Participation in associated pre-flight and post-flight ground instruction.
  - Training conducted at a flight school mutually agreed upon by the participant and scholarship committee.
- Due to the condensed nature of the program timeline, cancelled lessons resulting from weather, maintenance, instructor availability, or other unavoidable circumstances may not be rescheduled during the Jump Start period.

\*Any unused scholarship funds resulting from such cancellations will be retained by the Chapter until Ray Scholarship selections are finalized. Following Ray Scholarship selection, remaining funds may be distributed among Jump Start award recipients, including participants not selected as Ray Scholars, as determined by the Board of Directors.

### **Ray Application Deadline**

- Jump Start participants seeking Ray Scholarship consideration are not required to submit a second application. **However, they must notify the scholarship committee via email of their intent to be considered for the Ray Scholarship.**
- All other applicants must submit completed applications and supporting documentation electronically **as PDF files** to:  
[eaachapter729rayscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:eaachapter729rayscholarship@gmail.com)
- The email subject line shall follow the format:  
"First Name Last Name: Ray Scholarship Application"

- Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all materials are properly named, complete, and submitted directly by the applicant.

### **Jump Start Completion**

- Upon completion of the Jump Start Program:
  - Participating flight instructors will provide written evaluations and progress reports to the Board of Directors.
  - Participants will complete a program evaluation survey detailing their experiences and feedback.
- Survey responses may be used to improve future program offerings, support funding requests, and promote scholarship opportunities to future applicants.

### **Ray Scholar (RS) Interview Selection**

- Following application review, the Board of Directors will select candidates to advance to the interview phase of the Ray Scholarship process.
- Selected candidates will be notified via email.

### **Ray Scholar Interviews**

- Interviews will be conducted in person at the EAA Chapter 729 Conference Room.
- The interview process will consist of:
  - Approximately 20 minutes of discussion regarding the candidate's application, aviation goals, and, when applicable, Jump Start Program performance.
  - Approximately 15 minutes of discussion with the candidate and parent(s) or guardian(s) regarding financial, scheduling, transportation, and commitment expectations associated with the scholarship.

### **Ray Scholar Selection**

- Following completion of all interviews, the Board of Directors will deliberate and select up to two Ray Scholarship recipients, subject to available scholarship funding and program requirements.

### **Notification (RS)**

- Selected Ray Scholars will be notified by telephone as soon as practical following final selection.
- Candidates not selected for the scholarship will be notified via email.

### **Public Recognition**

- Scholarship recipients will be formally recognized at the next available EAA Chapter 729 membership meeting or other Chapter event deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.