



Tampa Bay Aviation Association

Tampa Bay Aviation Association 2027 GALA Flight Training Scholarship Program Policies and Procedures

These Policies and Procedures govern the 2027 Girls Achieving Leadership in Aviation (GALA) Flight Training Scholarship offered by the Tampa Bay Aviation Association (TBAA). They are intended to be read together with the 2027 GALA Flight Training Scholarship Application. Where applicant-facing dates, eligibility requirements, or submission requirements are stated, the requirements below have been synchronized with the 2027 application.

These procedures cover:

- I. Scholarship Description
- II. Applicant Eligibility
- III. Application Process
- IV. Flight School Selection and Funds Administration
- V. Private Pilot Training and Completion
- VI. Advanced Flight Training Considerations
- VII. Remaining Funds Management

I. Scholarship Description

The TBAA GALA Flight Training Scholarship supports young women in the Tampa Bay Area who are pursuing, or intend to pursue, careers in aviation through flight training. Scholarships of up to \$10,000 each may be awarded. The number and amount of awards will depend on available funding, the type of training requested, and the number and qualifications of applicants.

Applicants will undergo a review process to confirm eligibility, preparation, and commitment. A Scholarship Coordinator will oversee recipients and their progress. A Scholarship Committee consisting of TBAA Board members and/or appointees will maintain program oversight. Qualified mentors may be made available to help recipients successfully progress through training.

Initial Private Pilot Training: For recipients seeking an initial Private Pilot Certificate (PPL), scholarship funding will normally be administered in two phases. The first phase will provide up to \$5,000 toward training through the recipient's first solo flight. Following the solo milestone and a continuation review, the recipient may be approved for additional funding up to the remaining balance of the total scholarship award to continue toward PPL completion.

FAA Written Exam: The FAA Private Pilot Airman Knowledge Test must be completed before the scholarship application is submitted. A copy of the FAA Written Exam Report showing a passing score of at least 70% is required with the application. The written exam is not a milestone to be completed after the scholarship is awarded.

Advanced Flight Training: Applicants who already hold a Private Pilot Certificate may request funding for Commercial Pilot training or another approved certificate or rating. Advanced-training awards are administered on a case-by-case basis as described in Section VI.

Important: *TBAA does not guarantee that a scholarship will cover the full cost of the requested training. Any costs beyond the approved scholarship amount are the responsibility of the recipient.*

II. Applicant Eligibility

Program Demographic: Applicants for the 2027 GALA Flight Training Scholarship must be young women between 16 and 20 years of age, inclusive, at the time of application.

Tampa Bay Residency: Applicants must currently live in, or maintain a permanent address in, the Tampa Bay Area. For this scholarship, the Tampa Bay Area includes Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Hernando, Manatee, Polk, Citrus, Highlands, Hardee, and Sarasota Counties.

General: Applicants must be U.S. citizens, be able to fluently read, write, speak, and understand the English language, and have reliable transportation to and from flight training. Applicants must also be able to satisfy the FAA requirements applicable to the certificate or rating for which scholarship support is requested.

Parent / Guardian Consent: Applicants under 18 years of age must have the written consent of a parent or legal guardian.

Education: Applicants must be enrolled in, or have recently completed, an approved secondary, postsecondary, or aviation training program and must provide an official scholastic record/report. A minimum 3.0 unweighted GPA is required and must be maintained while participating in the scholarship program. GED recipients may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Aviation Interest: Applicants must demonstrate an interest in, or be actively pursuing, a career in aviation. Prior flight training is permitted, and instructor-approved flight time may be applied toward the certificate or rating being pursued.

FAA Written Exam: All applicants must have completed the FAA Private Pilot Airman Knowledge Test before submitting the application and must provide the FAA Written Exam Report showing a passing score of 70% or greater.

FAA Medical Certificate: An FAA Medical Certificate is not required to be attached at the time of application if the applicant has not yet obtained one. Applicants who already hold an applicable FAA Medical Certificate should include a copy. Applicants selected for initial PPL training must be able to obtain at least a Third-Class FAA Medical Certificate and must do so within 30 days of scholarship award notification and before exercising privileges that require the certificate.

Discovery Flight: A Discovery Flight is not required before the application is submitted. Finalists seeking initial PPL training must complete, at their own expense, a successful Discovery Flight of at least 30 minutes in a small general aviation aircraft with a Certified Flight Instructor before the scholarship award is finalized. This requirement does not apply to applicants who already hold a Private Pilot Certificate and are applying solely for advanced training.

III. Application Process

Application Window: Applications will be accepted from September 1, 2026 through January 15, 2027. Complete applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. on January 15, 2027.

Application Form: Applicants must use the 2027 GALA Flight Training Scholarship Application available through the GALA scholarship website.

Submission Method: The completed application and all required attachments must be combined into a single Adobe PDF file and submitted by email only to tbaa_scholarships@mytbaa.org. Applications submitted by mail, delivery, drop-off, or any other method will not be accepted.

Required application materials include:

- Completed 2027 GALA Flight Training Scholarship Application
- Personal Statement Essay
- Recent high-resolution class photo or passport-style photo, in color
- Official Student Scholastic Record / Report
- List of school accomplishments
- Volunteer Hours / Community Service verification
- Two letters of recommendation from an instructor or employer, each dated within 30 days of application
- Copy of FAA Written Exam Report showing a passing score of 70% or greater
- Flight school information, if training has begun
- FAA Medical Certificate, if already obtained/applicable at the time of application
- Copy of the last page of the applicant's logbook, if training has begun
- List of any other flight training scholarships received

Incomplete Applications: The quality and completeness of the application, including the applicant's ability to follow instructions, are part of the judged criteria. Missing required elements may disqualify an application. If an incomplete or inaccurate application is identified while the application window remains open, TBAA may notify the applicant and allow a corrected resubmission before the deadline if time permits. A resubmission opportunity is not guaranteed.

Application Interviews: Qualified applicants may be invited to participate in a live interview with the Scholarship Coordinator and/or Scholarship Committee, either by Zoom or in person. Applicants will be notified electronically of any interview requirement and scheduling details.

Final Review and Notification: A minimum of three Scholarship Committee members must participate in the final selection of recipients. A majority of affirmative votes is required for approval. If a tie occurs, the Scholarship Coordinator may cast the deciding vote. Selected recipients will be notified by email by February 12, 2027. Awards will be presented at the annual GALA fundraiser on Friday, March 12, 2027.

Pre-Award Requirements: Finalists seeking initial PPL training must complete the Discovery Flight requirement described in Section II before the award is finalized. Selected recipients who do not already hold an applicable FAA Medical Certificate must obtain at least a Third-Class FAA Medical Certificate within 30 days of award notification.

IV. Flight School Selection and Funds Administration

The scholarship recipient is responsible for selecting a flight school. The Scholarship Coordinator may assist with identifying suitable providers upon request. The selected training facility must complete any qualification documentation required by TBAA and agree to applicable program provisions.

All scholarship payments will be made directly by TBAA to the approved flight training facility. No scholarship funds will be paid directly to the recipient. TBAA may maintain a list of preferred Tampa Bay Area flight training providers for recipients to consider, but use of a preferred provider is not mandatory unless otherwise specified by the Scholarship Committee.

V. Private Pilot Training and Completion

Phase One - Through First Solo: For an initial PPL recipient, up to \$5,000 of the approved scholarship may be made available for training through the first solo flight. Because the FAA written exam is required before application, Phase One is focused on flight training progression and successful completion of the solo milestone.

Solo Deadline: The first solo flight must be completed within six months of the first lesson conducted using scholarship funding. Exceptions may be considered for documented extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

Continuation Review: The recipient must notify the Scholarship Coordinator within seven days after completing the first solo flight. The Scholarship Coordinator will conduct a continuation review and may consult the flight instructor, training facility, recipient, parent or guardian if applicable, and Scholarship Committee. The review will consider progress, attendance, communication, training consistency, financial status, and continued commitment.

Phase Two - PPL Completion: Following approval of the continuation review, the recipient may continue training using the remaining approved scholarship funds. If continuation is not approved, the recipient will be informed of the reason. At the discretion of the Scholarship Committee and Scholarship Coordinator, an opportunity to remediate identified concerns may be offered.

PPL Completion Deadline: The Private Pilot Certificate must be completed within one year of the first lesson conducted using scholarship funding. Exceptions may be considered for documented extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

Ongoing Communication: Recipients are expected to train consistently and communicate regularly with the flight school and Scholarship Coordinator. Scholarships may be suspended or revoked for failure to make reasonable progress, failure to comply with program requirements, or failure to communicate as required.

VI. Advanced Flight Training Considerations

Applicants who already hold a Private Pilot Certificate may apply for scholarship support for Instrument, Commercial, or another approved pilot certificate or rating. The 2027 GALA Flight Training Scholarship Application should be used for these requests. Advanced-training awards are made at the sole discretion of the

Scholarship Committee and will be based on applicant merit, eligibility, available funds, the proposed training plan, and the relationship of the requested training to the applicant's aviation career goals.

Because advanced applicants have already completed the PPL, the initial-PPL Discovery Flight and two-phase solo/PPL funding structure do not apply. The Scholarship Coordinator and Scholarship Committee will establish appropriate training milestones, completion expectations, and payment procedures for each approved advanced-training award.

VII. Remaining Funds Management

If funds remain after a recipient completes the certificate or rating for which the scholarship was approved, the remaining balance may be considered for additional flight training, ratings, endorsements, or related training. Use of remaining funds requires prior approval by the Scholarship Coordinator and/or Scholarship Committee and is subject to the original award amount, program rules, recipient eligibility, and availability of funds.

Unused scholarship funds remain the property of TBAA and are not payable to the recipient as cash or reimbursement except where specifically authorized in writing by TBAA.

Questions regarding the 2027 GALA Flight Training Scholarship may be directed to
tbaa_scholarships@mytbaa.org.