



PLANES, TRAINS & AUTOMOBILES

2027

Tampa Bay Aviation Association Flight Training Scholarship Program

2027 FLIGHT TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Planes, Trains & Automobiles | PPL & Advanced Flight Training

Application Window: September 1, 2026 - January 15, 2027

Scholarship Overview: TBAA is accepting applications for the 2027 Planes, Trains & Automobiles Flight Training Scholarship. Applicants may seek funding for initial Private Pilot License (PPL) training or, if already a certificated private pilot, for approved advanced training such as an Instrument Rating or Commercial Pilot Certificate. Awards may be made up to \$10,000 each, subject to available funding and applicant selection.

SCHOLARSHIP TRACK

Select One	☐ Initial PPL Training ☐ Advanced Flight Training
If Advanced, Training Sought	☐ Instrument Rating ☐ Commercial Pilot ☐ Other: _____

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA - ALL APPLICANTS

- Be between 16 and 20 years of age at the time of application.
- Be a U.S. citizen and be able to read, write, speak, and understand English proficiently.
- Currently live or maintain a permanent address in the Tampa Bay Area: Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Hernando, Manatee, Polk, Citrus, Highlands, Hardee, or Sarasota County.
- Be enrolled in, or recently graduated from, an approved secondary educational program and have an unweighted GPA of 3.0 or higher. The 3.0 GPA must be maintained through the scholarship process. GED recipients may be considered case by case.
- Hold a valid FAA medical certificate appropriate to the training sought; at minimum, an FAA Class III Medical Certificate is required.
- Have reliable transportation to support consistent flight training.
- Applicants under age 18 must provide the written consent/signature of a parent or legal guardian.

TRACK-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

- Initial PPL applicants must have completed the FAA Private Pilot Knowledge Test with a score of 70% or better before applying.
- Initial PPL applicants must complete a successful Discovery Flight, at their own expense, of at least 30 minutes in a small general aviation aircraft with a Certified Flight Instructor before being considered for an award.
- Advanced-training applicants must already hold an FAA Private Pilot Certificate and provide a copy with the application. Advanced awards are considered case by case based on merit, eligibility, training goals, and available funding.

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS & TIMELINE

- Maximum scholarship value: up to \$10,000. An award is not guaranteed to cover the full cost of the training sought.
- For initial PPL recipients, up to \$5,000 may be authorized through first solo. Continued funding is subject to a progress review after solo.
- Advanced-training awards will be administered on a case-by-case basis and are not subject to the PPL first-solo funding structure.
- Application deadline: January 15, 2027.
- Applicant notification date: February 15, 2027.
- Recipients are expected to be recognized at Planes, Trains & Automobiles on Saturday, February 27, 2027, at Plant City Airport.

PLANES, TRAINS & AUTOMOBILES

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2027 Planes, Trains & Automobiles Flight Training Scholarship

APPLICANT PERSONAL INFORMATION

First Name	
Last Name	
Address	
City / State / ZIP	
County	
Date of Birth	
Age	
Home/Cell Phone	
Email Address	
Emergency Contact	
Application Date	

PARENT / GUARDIAN INFORMATION (IF APPLICANT IS UNDER 18)

First Name	
Last Name	
Address	
City / State / ZIP	
Home Phone	
Work Phone	
Cell Phone	
Email Address	

EDUCATION, ACTIVITIES & SERVICE

Name and Address of Current School / Institution	
Current / Final GPA - Weighted	
Current / Final GPA - Unweighted	
Anticipated or Completed Graduation Year	
Activities (job, church, sports, clubs, etc.)	
Honors, Awards and Leadership Positions	
Verified Community Service / Volunteer Hours	

FLIGHT TRAINING INFORMATION

Flight School Name (if training has begun)	
Flight School Address	
Flight School Contact / Phone / Email	
Total Flight Training Hours to Date	
FAA Certificates / Ratings Currently Held	
Certificate Number (if applicable)	
FAA Medical Certificate / Class	☐ Attached
PPL Knowledge Test Score / Date (PPL applicants)	
Discovery Flight Date / CFI / School (PPL applicants)	
Advanced Training Sought (advanced applicants)	
Other Flight Training Scholarships Received	

APPLICANT PERSONAL STATEMENT ESSAY

Prepare a short essay describing yourself and your goals. Your essay must address all of the following:

- Academic areas of interest
- Aviation and/or aerospace-related areas of interest
- Personal goals related to aviation
- Career aspirations
- For advanced-training applicants: how the requested rating or certificate advances your aviation goals

Format: Typed, no longer than one page, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font. Attach the essay to this application.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- ☐ Completed 2027 Planes, Trains & Automobiles Flight Training Scholarship Application
- ☐ Personal Statement Essay
- ☐ Recent high-resolution class photo or passport-style photo, in color
- ☐ Most recent Official Student Scholastic Record / Report documenting a 3.0 or higher unweighted GPA
- ☐ Copy of current FAA Medical Certificate (REQUIRED)
- ☐ Volunteer Hours / Community Service verification, if applicable
- ☐ One letter of recommendation from an instructor or employer, dated within 30 days of application
- ☐ INITIAL PPL ONLY: Copy of FAA Private Pilot Knowledge Test / Written Exam Report showing 70% or better
- ☐ INITIAL PPL ONLY: Verification of a successful Discovery Flight of at least 30 minutes with a Certified Flight Instructor
- ☐ ADVANCED TRAINING ONLY: Copy of FAA Private Pilot Certificate and any additional certificates/ratings held

CERTIFICATION & SUBMISSION

I certify that the information provided in this application and all attachments is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that incomplete applications may not be considered and that submission does not guarantee an award.

Signature of Applicant	
Signature of Parent / Guardian (if under 18)	
Date	

SUBMISSION: Applications must be submitted by email only to greg@tailwindonline.com no later than January 15, 2027. Mail, delivery, drop-off, or other submission methods will not be accepted. Combining the application and attachments into a single Adobe PDF file is strongly preferred.

Questions: greg@tailwindonline.com | planestrainsautospc.org