

Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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2024 Aviation Scholarships

Montana is fortunate to have many generous individuals and organizations who support aviation by offering scholarships to qualified persons. The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Aeronautics Division helps to match these scholarships to qualified applicants, and encourages individuals interested in aeronautics to apply for scholarships. The scholarships are offered to help defray costs of education (e.g., flight instruction, aircraft airframe and powerplant (A&P) mechanic school, etc.). Recipients will be announced in January 2024 and awards will be presented at noon on March 1, 2024, at the Montana Aviation Conference in Butte.

How To Apply

To apply, complete applications must include:

1. Letter of application.
2. Biography not to exceed 250 words.
3. Self-portrait photo.

Application letters should explain reasons for applying, future career goals, past aviation experience (if any), and outstanding achievements.

Essential Reminders:

- Each document MUST include your name, mailing address, email address, and phone number.
- All three required items must be attached to the same email (or enclosed in one envelope) for each scholarship. The same letter can be used for multiple scholarships, but candidates must submit a separate copy addressed to each individual scholarship.
- **We cannot accept or open Google doc files.** Please attach emailed applications as .pdf files.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered
- Scholarship applications must be postmarked, or date stamped, on or before 11:59 p.m. MST, **November 17, 2023.**

Call **406-444-2506** with questions or scan the QR code for additional information.

Email your application to mdtad@mt.gov or

Mail complete applications to:

MDT Aeronautics Division
PO Box 200507
Helena, MT 59620-0507



Available Scholarships

Aviation Organizations of Montana Flight Training Scholarship \$1000

Briar Creek Scholarship \$4000

Choice Aviation Scholarship \$1500

EAA Missoula Chapter 517 Scholarship \$1000

Edwards Jet Center Scholarship \$2000

Mike and Julie Meloche Flight Training Scholarship \$1000

Bob and Kathy Dewante Flight Training Scholarship \$3000

Montana Antique Aircraft Association Scholarship \$1000

Montana Ninety-Nines Scholarship \$5000

Montana Pilots Association Air Safety and Education Foundation Flight Training Scholarship \$4000

Montana Pilots Association (MPA) Junior Pilot Scholarship \$4000

Montana Pilots Association Central Montana Flight Training Scholarship \$4000

Montana Pilots Association Aviation Maintenance Scholarship \$2000

Montana Pilots Association Arlin Wass Memorial Maintenance Technician Scholarship \$2000

Arlin C. Wass Aviation Maintenance Scholarship \$2000

Theresa (Nistler) Colley Flight Scholarship \$2000

Stuart Smihek Memorial Scholarship \$2500

Brett Thoft Memorial Foundation scholarship \$2500



Call for Montana Aviation Conference Speakers, Vendors, and Attendees

Have an interesting story to tell, or know someone who does? Have an aviation business you would like to exhibit? Interested in attending a conference to learn more about aviation?

Speakers and vendors are wanted for the 39th Annual Montana Aviation Conference. The Aviation Organizations of Montana (AOM) wants your suggestions for speakers, vendors, and topics for the upcoming conference.

The AOM is pleased to announce the Montana Aviation Conference will be held in Butte February 29 to March 2, 2024, at the Copper King Hotel. The conference brings Montana's aviation organizations and the flying public together for three days of speakers, seminars, workshops, awards ceremonies, business meetings, comradery, and social events. It is an opportunity for those from the aviation community to connect, learn, and exchange ideas and information. Around 500 participants are expected this year.

Speaker, vendor, attendee, and guest conference registration starts October 2 and may be completed by scanning the QR code or visiting: <https://www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?id=19890>.

Register by February 1, 2024, to save on registration fees!

Lodging is available at a special rate by calling the Copper King Hotel in Butte at 406-533-6960 and mention the Montana Aviation Conference for discounted room rates. Reservations must be made before January 1, 2024, to get the event rate of \$109 + tax for single room, \$119 + tax for double room, or \$169 + tax for family suite.

For more information, contact the MDT Aeronautics Division at 406-444-2506 or email mdtd@mt.gov.



Christmas in August

This year, Yellowstone Airport (WYS) continued its annual tradition of hosting Christmas in August, a festive gathering that began in the 1980s. Colleagues and friends of the airport came together August 24th for a potluck lunch to celebrate another successful operating season. As a unique touch, a Christmas tree was decorated in the main terminal lobby throughout the month of August, causing some confusion among travelers passing through.

The concept of Christmas in August originated in Yellowstone National Park back in 1925 when a sudden snowfall covered the landscape on August 24. In response, park staff and visitors at Fishing Bridge decided to spontaneously celebrate with a Christmas party.

The event included shared meals, small gift exchanges, and thus the tradition of "Christmas in August" was born. Since the airport remains closed during the actual holiday season, this early celebration allows airport staff and friends to come together and celebrate the end of the operating season.

An informative explanation of the event was displayed on the Christmas tree for the benefit of those using the terminal.



Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff



2024 Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic

There will be a Flight Instructor Refresher Course (FIRC) happening in Helena on February 2 - 3, 2024. The MDT Aeronautics Division is organizing Aviation Seminars to provide the two-day course approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). It will take place from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. This course fulfills the renewal requirements for certified flight instructors and includes FAA renewal.

Even if you are not a certified flight instructor, you can still attend and learn valuable information as a pilot. The cost of tuition is \$75, but if you are a registered pilot in Montana, you can get a \$25 discount. If you are not currently registered with the MDT Aeronautics Division, you can register for \$10 per year and save on the FIRC tuition.

Additional information about pilot registration at: <https://www.mdt.gov/aviation/regpilot.aspx> [[mdt.gov](https://www.mdt.gov)]

To sign up, visit: <https://aviationseminars.com/mt-firc/>

or scan the QR code.



Attention Airport Sponsors

As a friendly reminder, airport sponsors who were previously awarded a loan or grant from the MDT Aeronautics Division are required to complete a status update or project closeout form. To be eligible to apply for additional funding this year, the closeout form must be completed first.

The loan and grant application period opened on July 1 and will close on November 15, 2023.

For assistance or questions, please contact Stephen Torske at 406-444-9581 or storske@mt.gov.

Are You a Pilot Who Hunts?

As hunting season commences in Montana, aviators who hunt are advised to familiarize themselves with regulations concerning the use of aircraft for hunting. These regulations aim to ensure the safety and fairness of the sport for both humans and wildlife.

Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP) have outlined several rules that are relevant to aviation and hunting:

- It is prohibited to locate game animals for hunting purposes on the same day that you are airborne.
- The use of aircraft to concentrate, pursue, drive, rally, or disturb any game bird, migratory bird, game animal, or fur-bearing animal is strictly prohibited.
- Spotting or locating game animals or fur-bearing animals from the air and communicating their location to individuals on the ground via air-to-ground communication, signals, or other devices for the purpose of hunting or pursuing wildlife is illegal.
- It is unlawful to kill, take, or shoot at any game bird, game animal, or fur-bearing animal from an aircraft.
- Within national forest boundaries, aircraft may only be utilized for hunting activities when loading or unloading individuals or cargo at federally approved airports, landing fields, or heliports.

For further information, refer to the Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 87-6-208.

For questions about these regulations or any other hunting guidelines, please reach out to your local Fish, Wildlife & Parks office, or game warden.

2024 Winter Survival Clinic



Photo courtesy of Aeronautics staff

January 5 - 7, 2024

**At the Sugarloaf Lodge
near Anaconda, MT**

The all-inclusive cost is ONLY \$75

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Aeronautics Division invites you to attend the 2024 Aviation Winter Survival Clinic. The clinic will build your confidence in survival preparedness and techniques.

This clinic is geared toward all aviation pilots and passengers in the event an emergency landing takes place and survival is necessary until help arrives. However, these skills can be used by anyone who finds themselves in a cold-weather survival situation.

Additional information regarding the Sugar Loaf Lodge can be found at: <https://sugarloaflodgeandcabins.com/>

Please call MDT Aeronautics Division at 406-444-2506 or email mdtad@mt.gov with any questions.

To register scan the QR or go to:

https://www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?event_id=21229



Calendar of Events

October 13-14, 2023— Teacher's Workshop. Canyon Ferry.

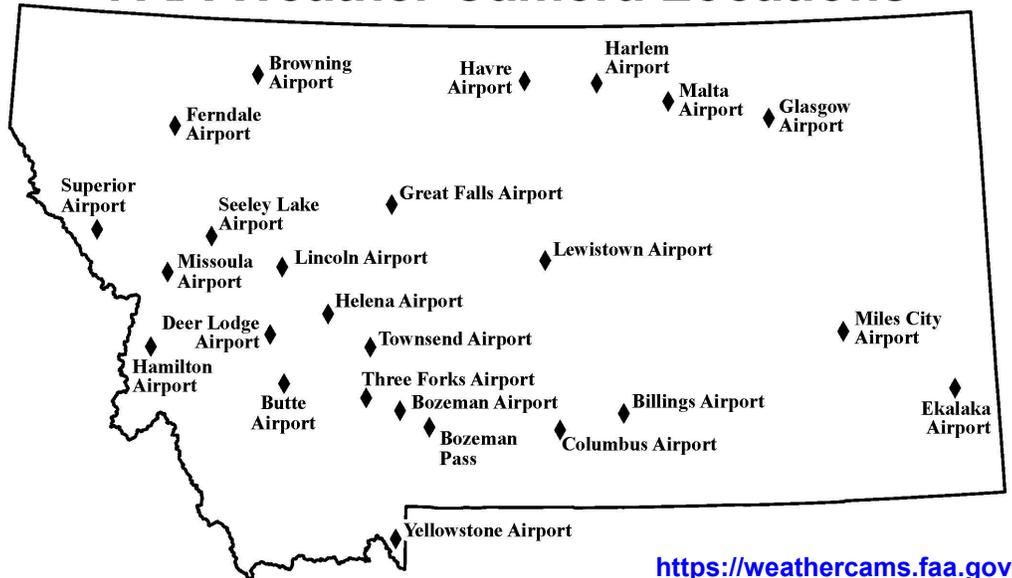
November 15, 2023— Loan Grant Application Deadline.

January 5-7, 2024— Winter Survival Clinic. Sugar Loaf Lodge, Anaconda. See above for more details.

February 2-3, 2024— Flight Instructor Refresher Course (FIRC). Double Tree Hotel, Helena. See page 2 for more details.

MDT Aeronautics Division
PO Box 200507
2630 Airport Road
Helena, Montana 59620-0507

FAA Weather Camera Locations



**Thank you for
reading
*Montana and
the Sky.*
Fly Safe!**

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Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided on request. Persons who need an alternative format should contact the Office of Civil Rights, Montana Department of Transportation, 2701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 201001, Helena, Montana 59620. Telephone 406-444-5416 or Montana Relay Service at 711.

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