

Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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June 2025



2025 Aviation Awareness Art Contest Winners Announced!



Congratulations to the winners of this year's Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)
Aeronautics Division's Aviation Awareness Art Contest!

MDT Aeronautics Division programs, such as the art contest, show youth the many opportunities that aeronautics provides in careers, transportation, and the economy. Many past winners of this contest have gone on to find successful careers in aviation. Judges had a difficult time selecting winners from over 600 entries this year.

Category I (K-5th grade) winners:

- 1st place: Anikin A. of Bozeman
- 2nd place: Lauren C. of Bozeman
- 3rd place: Briggs B. of Whitefish



1st



2nd



3rd

Category II (6th-8th grade) winners:

- 1st place: Asher R. of Kalispell
- 2nd place: Tyler B. of Kalispell
- 3rd place: Emberly C. of Fromberg



1st



2nd



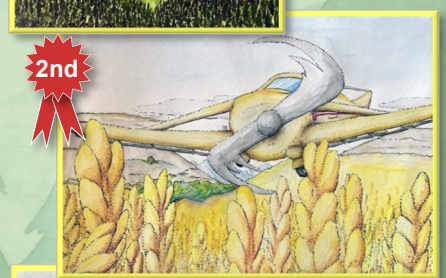
3rd

Category III (9th-12th grade) winners:

- 1st place: Serenity G. of Fromberg
- 2nd place: Brook B. of Forsyth
- 3rd place: Olivia H. of Dillon



1st



2nd



3rd

You Are Invited to Fly Into Canyon Ferry - June 28

Please fly your aircraft into Canyon Ferry on June 28 at 8 a.m. to support the annual Aviation Career Exploration (ACE) Academy.

The final day of the camp, we host a general aviation fly-in. This is a great opportunity to show off your aircraft and talk to aspiring and interested high school students. Students love to hear how you got started in aviation and your careers in the field. We want you to spend some time with us and talk about your airplanes.

We hope for a diverse turnout!

The parking area along the strip will be nicely mowed prior to our fly-in, and the 3,200 ft. rolled dirt runway is in good condition.



Please RSVP if you plan on flying in at mdtad@mt.gov or 406-444-2506.

2025 Legislature Wrapped Up

The 2025 Legislature wrapped up in Helena last month. With thousands of pieces of legislation proposed, a handful of bills were related to aviation.

HB 487 "Eliminate requirement that the Dept of Transportation have certain divisions". This bill removes the requirement for MDT to have statutorily defined divisions, including the Aeronautics division. This bill allows the agency to better align its services with its core purpose.

HB 731 "Revise laws related to airports and light aircraft". This bill was tabled in committee after being transmitted to the Senate. This bill would have required publicly funded airports to provide aircraft under 9,000 lbs. with access through the fence at no cost to the aircraft owner, operator, or passengers.

HB 571 "Revise aeronautics laws related to the use of Automatic Dependent Surveillance Broadcast (ADS-B) information". This bill prohibits the use of ADS-B out as a means for any entity (private or public) to calculate, generate, or collect any fees from aircraft owners or operators who operate aircraft within the geographic boundaries of the state.

SR 87 was filed with the Secretary of State confirming appointments to the MDT Aeronautics Board. Reappointments: New Chair Tim Robertson (Montana Association of Counties), Vice Chair Wade Cebulski (Montana Pilot's Association), Gregory Smith (Montana Association of Aerial Applicators), and Grayson Sperry (Chamber of Commerce). Tim Damrow (Montana Airport Management Association) is a new appointment. All were appointed to serve a term ending January 3, 2029.

SB 493 "Establish the offense of trespass by unmanned aerial vehicle". This bill establishes and enforces trespass by an unmanned aerial vehicle to operators that fly over private property below 200 feet above ground level without landowner permission. This bill exempts governments, contractors of utility or broadband entities to assess property damage, and those who have a license issued by the FAA and are operating for legitimate business purposes under FAA regulations.

HB 202 "Generally revise laws related to the unlawful use of aircraft for hunting". This bill was vetoed by the Governor but would have extended the waiting period to hunt after the use of an aircraft, bans the possession of unmanned aerial vehicles while hunting, increases fines and penalties, and includes game birds in the protected species list.

SB 106 "An act revising laws related to the use of aircraft while hunting". This bill creates the unlawful use of aircraft to spot or locate any game animal within 24 hours of utilizing an aircraft for the purpose of hunting, including drones. Pilots who hunt should refer to the latest hunting regulations for the full update.

To read the full version of each bill, visit www.legmt.gov and search for the relevant bill.

FAA Ensures Availability of 100LL

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has added airport grant assurance 40. It requires an airport owner or operator that made 100-octane low lead aviation gasoline (100LL) available at any time during calendar year 2022 to not restrict or prohibit the sale of or self-fueling with 100LL. The FAA modifies airport grant assurances to reflect new federal requirements as needed.

This requirement remains until Dec. 31, 2030, or the date on which the airport makes available an unleaded aviation gasoline that has been authorized for use by the FAA as a replacement for 100LL for use in nearly all piston-engine aircraft and engine models. The fuel must meet an industry consensus standard that facilitates the safe use, production, and distribution of such unleaded aviation gasoline.

Attention Airport Sponsors

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

The loan and grant application period opens on July 1 and will close on November 15, 2025.

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

Tailwheel Instruction and Rental Now Available

Fly With Virga is a newer small flight training operation in Livingston owned by Austin Timm. Austin is a Montana resident who flies cargo in Alaska and flight instructs at home in Montana with his Champ. His Champ is available for rental and instruction.

More information can be found at flywithvirga.com.

Calendar of Events

June 3 - Aeronautics Board Meeting - Loan and Grants Extensions. West Yellowstone Airport (WYS). 1 .m. To view the agenda, go to mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/aeronautics-board/meeting.aspx. For more information contact, Stephen Torske at storske@mt.gov.

June 7 - Spotted Bear Work Party. Work starts at 9 a.m. Lunch provided by the MPA Flathead hangar. For more information, contact Scott Newpower at 406-670-3169.

June 7 - Butte Wings and Wheels Fly-In or Drive-in with DC-3 Miss Montana and a P-51 scheduled. 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Honoring veterans and 80th Anniversary of end of WWII. Fundraiser pancake breakfast for Civil Air Patrol, live 40's music, lunch food trucks. Fuel discount. Contact Walt McIntosh 406-670-1846 or pwrwgnwalt@gmail.com.

June 7 - EAA Chapter 344 Summer Pulled Pork BBQ. Helena Airport. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Morrison Park located on the SW corner of the Helena Airport. For more information contact Den Culwell at eaach344@gmail.com.

June 12 - Del Bonita Work Session. Work from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Alternate weather day is June 17. For more information contact, Stephen Torske at storske@mt.gov.

June 14 - Big Timber Fly-In Breakfast and Car Show. 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Breakfast and lunch will be served starting at 7 a.m. Hosted by Yellowstone Air Service. Donations accepted for breakfast. For more information, contact Kirk Bryer 406-930-1780.

June 14 - Meadow Creek Airstrip Work Party. Work starts at 9 a.m. If you're handy with a chainsaw, bring one along as we have a lot of downed trees to cut and stack for firewood. Lunch will be provided. For more information, contact Scott Newpower at 406-670-3169.

June 14 - Choteau Fly-In. 6:30 to 10 a.m. Free breakfast starting at 6:30 a.m., donations welcome. Young Eagles airplane rides available. For more information, contact Scott Gasvoda at 406-590-2836 or Ben Hodgkiss at 406-737-4244.

June 14 - Young Eagles Flights. 2630 Airport Road, Helena. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free Young Eagles flights by the Helena EAA Chapter for kids ages 8 to 17. Parent or legal guardian signatures required to fly. **If you are an EAA qualified Young Eagles pilot and want to fly kids, please reach out!** For more information, contact Tim Shankland at 614-507-9959

June 21 - Geraldine Fly-In. 7 to 10 a.m. In conjunction with Geraldine Fun Day. Lots of activities downtown. There will be a fireman's breakfast at the fire station downtown (check courtesy car availability). For more Fly-In information, contact Butch Hankins at 406-737-4244. For information on Geraldine Fun Day go to <https://www.geraldineac.com>.

June 19 - 21 - Round Engine Round-Up. Idaho Falls, Idaho. *Wanted:* Round engines for the Round Engine Round-Up. Registration by June 1 is mandatory. Meals are limited. Contact Thomas Hoff at galactic@gmail.com if you plan on attending.

June 20 - 22 - Annual Missouri Breaks Fly-In. *Sod has been reseeded, land only on asphalt at Winifred.* The Fly-In starts Friday, June 20, with arrivals in Winifred. Fly out to Missouri Breaks strips, then dinner in Winifred's hangar. Saturday, June 21, fly out to Lewistown's MPA Central Hangar Fly-In Breakfast, then fly to the Breaks followed by dinner in Winifred. Breakfast in Winifred Sunday, June 22. For more information, contact Ralph Rogers at 406-350-5487.

June 21 - MPA Fly-In and Pancake Breakfast. Lewistown. 7 to 11 a.m. Hosted by the MPA Central Montana Hangar. Once again, we will be serving Jeff and Stacy Martinez's world famous, cinnamon chip pancakes! For more information, contact Pete Smith at 406-366-1435 or pete180@gmail.com.

June 21 - Lincoln Fly-In. Pancake breakfast from 8 to 11 a.m. every third Saturday each month starting May 17 ending September 20. For more information, contact Doug Vulcan at 406-362-4473 or vulcandg406@gmail.com.

June 21 - Big Sandy Fly-In. *Date Change to Saturday.* Pancake breakfast 8 to 11 a.m. Contact Joe Essert at jessert01@gmail.com.

June 26 - 28 - ACE Academy. For more information, contact Barbara Barnum at bbarnum@mt.gov.

June 28 - Canyon Ferry Fly-In. 8 to 11:30 a.m. Please fly your aircraft into Canyon Ferry to support the annual ACE Academy! This is a great opportunity to show off your aircraft and talk to high school students interested in aviation. Students love to hear how you got started in aviation and about your careers in the field. We want you to spend some time with us and talk about the world of aviation. Please RSVP to mdtad@mt.gov or 406-444-2506 if you plan on attending.

July 4 - Plains Fly-In and Paradise Rural Fire Department Pancake Breakfast. Plains Airport. 8 to 11 a.m. Ride an antique fire truck shuttle to the breakfast held at the fire station next door. Contact Randy Garrison at 406-370-6179.

July 12 - Vintage Sea Plane Fly-In. At the Lodge and Resort Lake Mary Ronan. Event starts at 10:30 a.m. Lunch is available for purchase. For more information, or to participate, please contact Addison Pemberton at 509-995-6240 or apemberton@scanivalve.com.

July 12 - 13 - Saint Ignatius Fly-In. Saturday, July 12, 4 to 8 p.m., free BBQ with all the fixin's. Sunday, July 13, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., free huckleberry pancake breakfast, 100 gallon avgas giveaway, many door prizes. \$50 per seat helicopter rides both days. For more information, contact Michael Kuefler 406-544-2274.

July 19 - Lincoln Fly-In. Open house, pancake breakfast and potluck lunch. Pancake breakfast from 8 to 11 a.m. followed by a potluck lunch from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, contact Doug Vulcan at 406-362-4473 or vulcandg406@gmail.com.

July 19 - Schafer Meadows Work Party. Work starts at 9 a.m. Dinner provided Saturday night, so come help out and camp for the weekend. For more information, contact Scott Newpower at 406-670-3169.

July 24 - 27 - Big Sky Balloon Rally. Amend Park, Billings. 6 a.m. balloon launches. Field opens to the public on July 26 at 6 p.m., live music starts at 6:15 p.m. Balloon glow at dusk (weather permitting)! For information, go to bigskyballoonrally.com.

August 2 - Montana Antique Aircraft Association (MAAA) Fly-In. Three Forks. Hot breakfast available for purchase from 7 to 10 a.m., lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Ping pong ball drop, young eagles discovery flights, flying events with awards, static display with peoples choice award. Dinner available for pilots camping both Friday and Saturday nights. For more information, visit montanaantiqueaircraftassociation.com or contact Nick Hunt at 503-209-1041.

August 16 - Lincoln Fly-In. Pancake breakfast from 8 to 11 a.m. every third Saturday each month starting May 17 ending September 20. For more information, contact Doug Vulcan at 406-362-4473 or vulcandg406@gmail.com.

August 23 - Anaconda Bowman Field 9th Annual Fly-In and Car Show. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free to the public. Flour sack drop, games for the kids, and possible airplane rides (weather permitting). For more information, contact Laura at 406-560-8622.

August 31 - Red Lodge Wings and Wheels. 8 to 11 a.m. Join us for the 3rd annual Wings and Wheels fly-in in conjunction with the Burn the Point car show in Billings and the town of Red Lodge's labor day celebrations. For more information about the fly-in, contact Bo Ewald at b.ewald@att.net.

September 6 - Helena Aviation Day. Helena. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aircraft static displays, Boeing facility tours, armory and aviation facility open house, events and games for kids. Please RSVP to Scott Sponholz at scott.m.sponholz.mil@army.mil.

September 6 - MPA North Central Hanger Fly-In. Havre. 7 to 11 a.m. Breakfast will be served 7 to 10 a.m. All activities will be completed by 11 a.m. For more information, contact Chad Olsen at 406-945-1577.

September 13 - MPA South Central Fly-In. Laurel. For more information, contact John Roberts at 406-855-2372.

September 20 - Lincoln Fly-In. Pancake breakfast from 8 to 11 a.m. For more information, contact Doug Vulcan at vulcandg406@gmail.com.

September 20 - Sky Ranch Fly-In (MT95) Kalispell. Breakfast served 9 a.m. Spot landing competition. Family-friendly fundraiser for the new Museum of Mountain Flying at Glacier Park International (GPI). More info: FlatheadLakeSkyRanch.com.

MDT Aeronautics Division

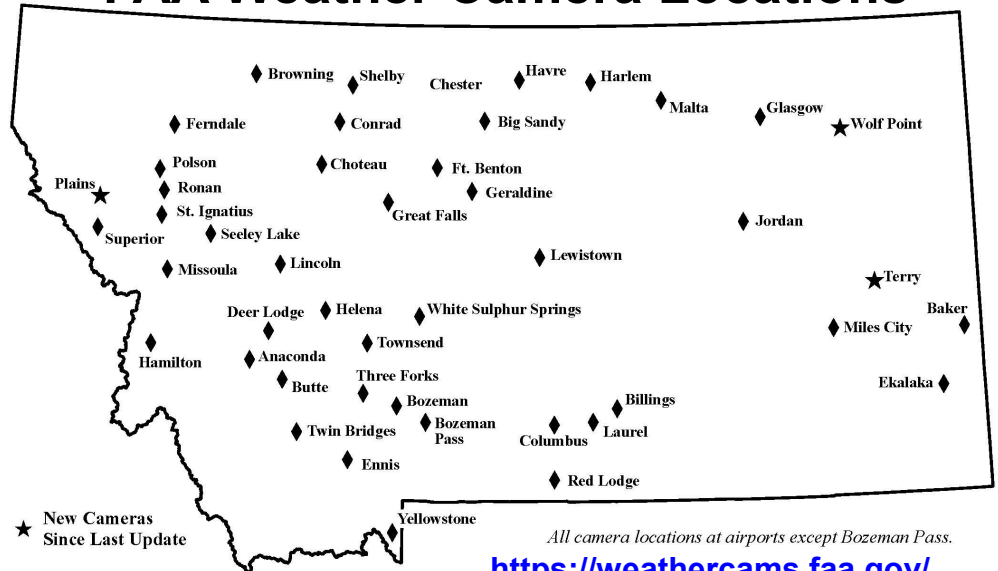
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FAA Weather Camera Locations



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