

2020 SSA Youth/Junior Unified Scholarship Instructions



The Soaring Society of America (SSA)'s Youth/Junior Committee is pleased to offer a series of scholarships designed to help students in various phases of flight training. By completely filling out and submitting this application, you are automatically eligible for any of the scholarships that you qualify for.

The following awards are available:

Scholarship Name	Age (at the application deadline)	Required Experience (at the application deadline)/Eligibility	Award Amount	Use of Award
SSA Dennis Purduski Flight Training Scholarship	13-19	None, pre-solo applicants only	Up to 5 recipients of \$2000 each (\$1250 initially and \$750 after soloing)	Flight training to solo through private
Costello Insurance Primary Training Scholarship	14-22	None, pre- solo student pilot applicants	Up to 2 recipients of \$2000 each (\$1250 initially and \$750 after soloing)	Flight training to solo through private
		Post-solo student pilot applicants	Up to 2 recipients of \$2000 each (\$1250 initially and \$750 after completing the FAA Knowledge Test)	
Stoffel Flight Training Scholarship	13-24	None, pre-solo applicants only	Up to 5 recipients of \$2000 each (\$1250 initially and \$750 after soloing or completing the FAA Knowledge Test)	Flight training to solo through private
		Post-solo student pilot applicants		
SSA Flight Training Scholarship [Number of awards varies annually with available funding]	13-24	None, pre- solo student pilot applicants	\$2000 each (\$1250 initially and \$750 after soloing)	Flight training to solo through private
		Post-solo student pilot applicants	\$2000 each (\$1250 initially and \$750 after completing the FAA Knowledge Test)	
SSA Bultman	14-22	Post-solo student pilots and rated glider pilots	Up to 2 recipients of \$1000 each	Post-solo training, trips, and experiences and personal flight experiences

In addition to the requirements above, each applicant must:

- 1) Be a member of the SSA: This can be done by completing the Cadet Introductory Membership Application at: <https://cadet.ssa.org> or by joining as an SSA Youth Member at <https://www.ssa.org/HowToJoin>
- 2) Be able to read, speak and understand English and have no medical defect that would prevent them from safely operating a glider.
- 3) Agree to complete a thank you letter, update the SSA with progress, milestones, and achievements, and provide the SSA with a personal photo.

Costello Insurance Primary Training Scholarship

Background:

Pat Costello, of Phoenix, AZ, is the owner of Costello Insurance Associates, Inc., which is the largest writer of glider insurance in the United States. Pat is well known to most SSA members as the administrator of SSA's group hull and liability insurance program, a service he has provided to SSA since 1992. During his administration of the program Pat has been a tireless advocate for SSA with the insurance carrier, advocating for a number of enhancements and benefits to the SSA insurance program such as contest coverage and reciprocal coverage for members of SSA Chapters.

Pat is a lifelong pilot with over 4,000 hours in the cockpit. He maintains a commercial license with multi engine, instrument and flight instructor ratings. He is an occasional glider pilot and has introduced his grandchildren to glider flying in the hopes of encouraging the next generation of pilots.

Pre-/Post-solo SSA members STUDENT pilots 14 - 22 years old may apply. Applicants must express both desire and a plan for success and if under 18, must have parent/guardian support for participation. Applicants must make a good case through a personal statement, in the form of an essay, and letters of recommendation supporting their interest and desire in learning to fly gliders, their financial need, and their promise in other aspects of life. The flight training organization must be willing to cooperate on the reimbursement process.

Promotion and fulfillment of the program are a cooperation between SSA, which administers and judges the scholarship, and local soaring chapters, clubs, and schools, who get reimbursement for their qualified charges; tows, glider rental, instructional costs, and costs of successful exams. Funds are not available for dues, joining fees, or other non-training costs.

Award (up to 2): Up to \$2000 in SSA credit for direct flight training expenses. \$1250 will be available initially. The remaining \$750 will be available following either solo or successful completion of the FAA Knowledge Test. Detailed invoices of flight training expenses must be invoiced to the SSA at scholarships@ssa.org for payment to the servicing organization. No expenses will be paid two years after the date the award announcement .

SSA Dennis Purduski Flight Training Scholarship

Background:

Dennis Purduski, of Brandon, MS, was an SSA member and CFG who trained numerous young pilots to fly. His passion for aviation was wide reaching; in addition to being an active glider instructor he was also well known as an RC modeler and pilot; he was a past USA World Team Manager for RC helicopter competition. Dennis flew gliders with the Central Mississippi Soaring Society where he was an active instructor at the time of his death in 2016 from natural causes. Dennis was passionate about aviation of all types, but soaring in particular. Dennis particularly enjoyed instructing young students. He saw soaring as a low-cost way to introduce people to aviation. When Dennis passed away he left his entire estate as the Dennis Purduski Charitable Aviation Fund of the Community Foundation for Mississippi., that funds two beneficiaries; an aviation scholarship at Kansas University and the SSA to fund training for persons under 20 years of age to fly solo in gliders.

Pre-Solo SSA members 13 - 19 years old may apply. Applicants must express both desire and a plan for success and if under 18, must have parent/guardian involvement for participation. Applicants must make a good case through a personal statement, in the form of an essay, and letters of recommendation supporting their interest and desire in learning to fly gliders, their financial need, and their promise in other aspects of life. The flight training organization must be willing to cooperate on the reimbursement process.

Promotion and fulfillment of the program are a cooperation between SSA, which administers and judges the scholarship, and local soaring chapters, clubs, and schools, who get reimbursement for their qualified charges; tows, glider rental, instructional costs, and costs of successful exams. Funds are not available for dues, joining fees, or other non-training costs.

Award (up to 5): Up to \$2000 in SSA credit for direct flight training expenses. Detailed invoices of flight training expenses must be invoiced to the SSA at scholarships@ssa.org for payment to the servicing organization. No expenses will be paid two years after the date the award announcement.

SSA and Stoffel Flight Training Scholarships

Background:

SSA members and others have been generous in recent years to fund additional flight training scholarships, named and un-named, in addition to the named awards above. Sometimes the available funding is not known prior to the application period opening, but applications that qualify for the above awards, or for this award will be considered for an award subject to available funding.

Pre-/Post-solo SSA members STUDENT pilots 13 - 24 years old may apply. Applicants must express both desire and a plan for success and if under 18, must have parent/guardian support for participation. Applicants must make a good case through a personal statement, in the form of an essay, and letters of recommendation supporting their interest and desire in learning to fly gliders, their financial need, and their promise in other aspects of life. The flight training organization must be willing to cooperate on the reimbursement process.

Promotion and fulfillment of the program are a cooperation between SSA, which administers and judges the scholarship, and local soaring chapters, clubs, and schools, who get reimbursement for their qualified charges; tows, glider rental, instructional costs, and costs of successful exams. Funds are not available for dues, joining fees, or other non-training costs.

Award of \$2000 in SSA credit for direct flight training expenses. \$1250 will be available initially. The remaining \$750 will be available following both solo AND successful completion of the FAA Knowledge Test. Detailed invoices of flight training expenses must be invoiced to the SSA at scholarship@ssa.org, for payment to the servicing organization. No expenses will be paid two years after the date the award announcement

SSA Bultman Youth Flight Scholarship

Background:

This is a "worker" award for a young soaring pilot who has made impressive contributions to a USA soaring Club or School. Someone who may be too financially strapped to buy tows for personal recreation or personal progress in the sport.

This award is intended to finance post-solo soaring by SSA members aged 14-22. This includes activities such as chasing badges, attending wave camps, entering contests, and flight training.

Winners of this annual scholarship are selected from young soaring-pilot and SSA member applicants who are of great service at a USA gliderport, and who make a good case via an applicant's statement and letters of recommendation for their desire to progress in soaring, their financial need, and promise in other aspects of life.

Promotion of the program is a cooperation between SSA, which administers and judges the scholarship, and local soaring clubs and schools, who get credit for their charges. Also, they may well perform advanced training of the winner or collect fees for aircraft rental or services. When one of their ground-crew gang wins, they win.

The sponsors of this program, from throughout the USA soaring community, hope the scholarship will help a few more young people make the transition from basic glider flying to sport soaring. In the process, the word can grow that excellence as a soaring pilot need not require advanced age or a large bank account. Most importantly, this is a "thank you" to young ground-crew workers on whom the sport depends so much.

Promotion and fulfillment of the program are a cooperation between SSA, which administers and judges the scholarship, and local soaring chapters, clubs, and schools, who get reimbursement for their qualified charges; tows, glider rental, instructional costs, and costs of successful exams. Funds are not available for dues, joining fees, or other administrative costs.

Award (up to 2): Up to \$1000 in reimbursable expenses will be made to the awardee US Soaring Club or Commercial Operator that sponsors the entry. (The prize must be used for soaring activities: ship rental, badge attempts, contest entry fees, and flight training for FAA ratings, not college expenses)

Selection Criteria:

In order to decide the recipient, each applicant will be sorted into which scholarships they are eligible for based on age, solo status, and license status. The Costello and Purduski and SSA grants are geared toward primary training while the Bultman is geared toward more advanced training. In the case where an applicant may be eligible for multiple awards (i.e. a 15 year old, pre-solo applicant eligible for Costello and Purduski or a 20 year old, post-solo applicant eligible for Costello and Bultman), they will be scored for both and may win either but not both. Because the Bultman is geared toward post-solo (and in many cases, post-license) experiences/projects and the Costello award is geared toward flight training, it is expected that there will be little overlap in those applications.

The successful applicant is one who,

- 1) Demonstrates commitment to soaring by contributing through both flying and non-flying activities and is known for being willing to help with anything.
- 2) Demonstrates a strong interest in aviation and has specific, measurable, achievable, results-focused, and time-bound (S.M.A.R.T) goals related to soaring.
- 3) Includes a personal statement that explains how they will use the scholarship. Ideally, this is a project or goal that relates to the item above.
- 4) Has various skills and talents and uses them to promote their club, soaring in general, etc.
- 5) Ideally, demonstrates a financial need for the award (this should NOT discourage anyone from applying)

How increase your chances of receiving these scholarships:

- 1) See the table of awards and read the award biographies in the section above for all of the awards that you are eligible for.
- 2) READ AND COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FULLY (You'd be surprised how often this is done wrong).
- 3) Find a mentor (at your flying club/operation, school, family, etc.) who will read your application completely and help you revise it.
- 4) Ask for reference letters several weeks before the application is due so that they are well written and not rushed.
- 5) The scholarship selection committee is looking to invest the money in people who have earned these awards through their contributions to soaring. Give specific examples of things you did that benefit the soaring community. Some common examples:
 - a. Instead of saying: "I help get gliders ready", try: "Every weekend I help with/conduct pre-flight inspections, clean the canopies, wipe the wings, and walk the gliders to the flight line for others."
 - b. Instead of saying: "I talk about gliders at school", try: "During my Science class, we had to give presentations on (insert topic here) and I shared the story and photos of my first glider ride and a summary of how gliders fly."
- 6) Convince the scholarship selection committee that you love glider flying and that you have a plan to use the scholarship money. If applying to use the money for flight training, don't leave the scholarship committee wondering what club you will be flying at, how you will get there, etc. If applying for the Bultman, be creative with your application and intended use – some ideas to get started might be: going to fly cross country or wave camp or contest, going to fly at a new location (maybe not even in the US), taking friends for rides, getting a winch/aerotow/motorglider endorsement, etc.

2020 SSA Youth/Junior Unified Scholarship Application



This application must be postmarked on or before March 31st, 2020 and may be submitted electronically to scholarships@SSA.org or by mail to:

The Soaring Society of America, Inc.
Attn: Scholarships Committee
PO Box 2100
Hobbs, NM 88241-2100

Part 1 – General Questions:

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Secondary Phone: _____

Email: _____ SSA Member Number: _____

What is the highest certificate you hold? (Student, Private, etc.) _____

Have you soloed in a glider? _____ If yes, Date of First Solo: _____

Total Number of Flights in *Glider*: _____ Total Number of *Glider* Hours: _____

Total Number of Flights in *Other*: _____ Total Number of *Other* Hours: _____

Total Number of *Solo* Flights in *Glider*: _____ Total Number of *Solo Glider* Hours: _____

Total Number of *Solo* Flights in *Other*: _____ Total Number of *Solo Other* Hours: _____

Glider Types Flown: _____

Name of School: _____

Grade Level or Graduation Year: _____ Most Recent GPA: _____

Part 2 – Essay Questions:

Please attach your answers to the following questions on a separate sheet. These are intended to be relatively short answers at approximately 100-300 words (more is ok though).

- 1) How did you hear about this scholarship?
- 2) What extra-curricular programs are you involved with? Hobbies and sports? Any special achievements?
- 3) If you do not have a private pilot certificate (or higher), discuss why you want to learn to fly **gliders**?
- 4) Discuss your aviation interest, your experiences (model building, R/C flying, etc.), and your goals.
- 5) How do you plan to use this scholarship? Do you have a financial need?
- 6) What have you done in the past and what will you do to contribute to the soaring community over the next year?

Part 3 – Letters of Recommendation:

Include at least one letter of recommendation from a member of your local soaring community that discusses why you deserve this scholarship. *Note: If you are applying for the Bultman, at least one recommendation must be written by an officer of your club or commercial operator to indicate their willingness to support you.*

Name of recommender(s): _____

Relationship(s) to Applicant (club member, instructor, etc.): _____

Part 4 –Parental Support Statement (if under 18):

If you are under 18 years old at the time of application, please have your parent or guardian read and sign the following support statement:

Parent Name: _____ Parent Phone Number: _____

Parent Email: _____

I am the parent or guardian of the applicant and understand that soaring offers many great opportunities for the education and development of youth. I understand that this is important to my son/daughter and in order for them to be successful, I will need to support them. This includes my willingness to help arrange for or provide transportation to the airport, support of their educational goals, and if possible, help them financially.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Part 5 – Application Checklist:

- ✓ I have answered all relevant questions in Part 1
- ✓ I have attached answers to all question in Part 2
- ✓ I have attached a letter of recommendation from a member of the soaring community
- ✓ If I am under 18 at the time of application, I have attached a parent support statement
- ✓ I have signed the statement below

I have completed this application completely and to the best of my knowledge, everything is true.

Signed: _____ Date: _____