FLIGHT TRAINING IS ABOUT MUCH MORE THAN MANEUVERS and regulations. Great instructors and schools will prepare you for your checkride, yes, but they’ll also set the tone for your entire flying life with quality instruction, a focus on your needs as a customer, a strong sense of community, and transparency about the process. In the pages that follow, you’ll meet the best flight training providers in the country, as measured by their students. These are the winners of AOPA’s Flight Training Experience Awards.

The AOPA Flight Training Experience Survey and Awards are part of the You Can Fly program, a set of initiatives designed to get people flying and keep them flying. Winners are chosen based on feedback from thousands of students in a survey based on AOPA’s extensive research into the optimal flight training experience.

Awards are granted in two categories: flight instructor and flight school. High-scoring flight training providers are recognized as distinguished schools and instructors, and regional winners were selected for each category in each of five regions. The National Best Flight School and National Best Flight Instructor were selected from the regional winners. Congratulations to all the schools and instructors—and be on the lookout for the 2019 poll, which will be released this summer.
DISTINGUISHED FLIGHT SCHOOLS BY REGION

**NORTHEAST**
- AeroVenture Flight Center (IB9)
- Air Fleet Training Systems (CDW)
- Air Ventures Flying School (SFZ)
- Alpha One Flight Services (PYM)
- Bravo Flight Training (FDK)
- Chesapeake Sport Pilot, LLC (W29)
- East Coast Aero Club (OWD)
- FCA Flight Center (FIT)
- Harford Air Services (OW3)
- High Flight Academy (BTP)
- Infinity Flight Group (TTN)
- Norby Aviation, LLC (NRD)
- Orlindo Flight Center (N22)
- Smoketown Helicopters (S37)
- Valley Aviation, Inc. (WBW)

**SOUTHEAST**
- Ace Basin Aviation (RBW)
- Atlas Aviation (TPF)
- ATP Flight School (LZU)
- Aviation Adventures (HEF)
- Aviation Adventures (HWY)
- Aviation Adventures (JYO)
- Aviation Adventures (RMM)
- Box Aviation, Inc. (MGM)
- Cape Fear Aviation (GC)
- Centennial Aviation Academy (PDK)
- Cherokee Flight (CNI)
- Dominion Aviation Services, Inc (FCI)
- Dragonfly Aviation (WDR)
- FL Aviation Center (TLV)
- Flight Training Professionals (ORL)
- Holladay Aviation (CRG)
- JLS Aviation, LLC (EZF)
- New Orleans Aerial Tours and Flight Training (NEW)
- OpenAir Flight Training (JYO)
- Paragon Flight Training (FMY)
- Pilot Training Center—Homestead (X51)
- Pilot Training Center—Lantanta (LAN)
- Skybound Aviation, LLC (PDK)
- Strasos Aviation (GMU)
- Sunrise Aviation (VQO)
- WaterWings Seaplane School (EET)

**MIDWEST**
- AirTrek North (LNV)
- Avel Flight School (DPA)
- Beaver Valley Aviation of Ohio (773)
- Fargo Jet Center Inc. (FAR)
- Flight Safety International, Wichita East Learning Center (BEC)
- Gateway Technical College (ENW)
- Illinois Aviation Academy, Inc. (DPA)
- MacAir Aviation (I99)

**SOUTHWEST**
- Andrea Berry (FMY)
- Trent Bosse (NEW)
- Kirk Bray (CHS)
- Kerwin Day (PDK)
- Raymond De Haan (JYO)
- Sebastian Drakes (OFF)
- Christopher Freeze (JYO)
- Bob Garty (JYO)
- Michael Gilbert (JYO)
- Todd Givens (RBW)
- Jace Habben (FMY)
- Jason Helms (PDK)
- Ron Horton (EDG)
- Jonathan Kotwicki (VNC)
- Bob Labrecque (PCM)
- Jon Lambert (WDR)
- Barry Loomis (LNA)
- Raman Mathana (HEF)
- John McWilliams (JYO)
- Dan Miller (JYO)
- Kelsey Mulloy (FMY)
- Jay Naboros (T TA)
- Rajiv Nowbuth (LNA)
- Dimitri Pantazia (GMU)
- Tim Pinkett (7FL6)
- Hannah Porter (LNA)
- Todd Shennulit (LZU)
- Victor Slaughter (FMY)
- Jim Stover (EZT)
- Gary Summer (OKX)
- Gene Tanton (FMY)
- David Twibell (PDK)
- Odaysys Velasquez (OFF)
- Charles Weldon (EET)

**DISTINGUISHED FLIGHT INSTRUCTORS BY REGION**

**NORTH EAST**
- Bill Allen (IB9)
- Joe Baginski (HGR)
- Mariana Baratto (HEF)
- Marianne Buckey (KKX)
- Mary Build (LEW)
- Scottie Burge (ROC)
- Chuck Copey (WBW)
- Dave Hall (PT)
- Jim Henry (BED)
- Bob Hepp (HEF)
- Larry Jarkey (FDK)
- Andrew Johnes (OW3)
- Tyler Jusko (IBS)
- Kyle Lacey (CDW)
- Domenic Lafaure (EWE)
- Kevin Norby (3B0)
- Geoffrey Olandi (1N7)
- Jim Powell (FIT)
- Ron Semanski (WBW)
- Brenda Tibbs (F6K)
- John Toomey (RBD)
- Ryan Waiker (FDK)

**SOUTHWEST**
- Muhammad Afif (LVJ)
- Jerry Beckner (DWH)
- Scott Campbell (SDL)
- Joe Casey (JSC)
- Brian Childs (OCH)
- Thomas Deyong (SDL)
- Jeff King (LVJ)

**SOUTHWEST**
- Jason Woinek (HWO)
- Reagan Wright (RIC)
- Harry Young (FMY)
- Nathan Zucker (F4E)

**SOUTHWEST**
- Travis Lee (DWH)
- Caleb Park (MFE)
- Jim Pitman (DTW)
- Norman Rathie (76F)
- Russ Roslofski (PWA)
- Bill Scanlan (76F)
- Aaron Schaller (DWH)
- John Nathan Smith (GEU)
- John Winslow (DWH)
- Steve Wong (SZP)

**SOUTHEAST**
- Andrea Berry (FMY)
- Trent Bosse (NEW)
- Kirk Bray (CHS)
- Kerwin Day (PDK)
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- Bill Scanlan (76F)
- Aaron Schaller (DWH)
- John Nathan Smith (GEU)
- John Winslow (DWH)
- Steve Wong (SZP)

**WEST**
- Rebekah Butler (ELN)
- Anthony Cinicone (CYS)
- Bob DeValle (ISG)
- Jeff Fouchie (COE)
- Brad Groesbeck (BZI)
- Jim Hudson (MAN)
- Wes Irish (PAO)
- Paul Leadabrand (EUL)
- Marc Lee (SNA)
- Fred Lundahl (W10)
- Miriam Macmillan (TOA)
- Joe Mattison (LMO)
- Tim Miller (U42)
- Anissa Mohler (RHV)
- Evan Paraskovopoulos (HWD)
- Jamie Patterson-Simes (MRI)
- Adam Peterson (BFL)
- Harold Rice (SPK)
- Aaron Richman (APA)
- Ernie Swallow (VGT)
- David Waiker (RHV)
- Kristine Wanner (APA)
- David Wernitz (EMT)
- William Woodbury (BFL)