



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 (1B9)
 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)
 Nørby Aviation, LLC (3B0)
 Orlandi Flight Center (1N7)
 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 (RMN)
 Box Aviation, Inc. (MGM)
 Cape Fear Aviation (2GC)
 Centennial Aviation Academy (PDK)
 Cherokee Flight (CNI)
 Dominion Aviation Services, Inc (FCI)
 Dragonfly Aviation (WDR)
 FL Aviation Center (TLH)
 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—Lantana (LNA)
 Skybound Aviation, LLC (PDK)
 Stratos Aviation (GMU)
 Sunrise Aviation (VQQ)
 WaterWings Seaplane School (EET)

MIDWEST

AirTrek North (LVN)
 Avel Flight School (DPA)
 Beaver Valley Aviation of Ohio (I73)
 Fargo Jet Center Inc. (FAR)
 FlightSafety International, Wichita East Learning Center (BEC)
 Gateway Technical College (ENW)
 Illinois Aviation Academy, Inc. (DPA)
 MacAir Aviation (I19)

P&N Flight and Charter (C17)
 Racine Sport Flyers (RAC)
 Skill Aviation (UGN)
 Spencer Aviation, Inc. (DLZ)
 St. Charles Flying Service (SET)
 Sweet Aviation LLC (SMD)
 Warsaw Flying Club (ASW)
 Windy City Flyers Inc. (PWK)

SOUTHWEST

Brazos Valley Flight Services (CLL)
 Chickasha Wings Inc. (CHK)
 Code 1 Flight Training (76F)
 Fox Aviation International Inc. (16X)
 Sierra Charlie Aviation (SDL)
 Texas Flight (DWH)
 Tulsa Aviation Group LLC (GCM)

WEST

AeroDynamic Aviation—San Jose (RHV)
 Aeromania (CYS)
 Aero-Sphere Flight Training Center (LMO)
 Angel Aviation—Alaska (MRI)
 Bakersfield Flying Club Inc. (BFL)
 Bush Air (1L4)
 CP Aviation (SZP)
 Du Bois Aviation (CNO)
 Executive Flight Institute (F70)
 Latitude Aviation (COE)
 Pacific Skies Aviation (TOA)
 SkyTrek Alaska Flight Training LLC (MRI)
 Stick & Rudder Aviation LLC (BOI)
 Summit Aviation (BZN)



DISTINGUISHED FLIGHT INSTRUCTORS BY REGION

NORTHEAST

Bill Allen (1B9)
 Joe Baginski (HGR)
 Mariana Baratto (HEF)
 Marianne Buckley (VKX)
 Mary Build (LEW)
 Scottie Burge (ROC)
 Chuck Copley (WBW)
 Dave Hall (IPT)
 Jim Henry (BED)
 Bob Hepp (HEF)
 Larry Jarkey (FDK)
 Andrew Joynes (OW3)
 Tyler Jusko (1B9)
 Kyle Lacey (CDW)
 Domenic Lafauci (EWB)
 Kevin Norby (3B0)
 Geoffrey Orlandi (1N7)
 Jim Powell (FIT)
 Ron Semanski (WBW)
 Brenda Tibbs (FDK)
 John Toomey (RDG)
 Ryan Walker (FDK)

SOUTHEAST

Andrea Berry (FMY)
 Trent Bosse (NEW)
 Kirk Bray (CHS)
 Kerwin Day (PDK)
 Raymond De Haan (JYO)
 Sabastian Drakes (OPF)
 Christopher Freeze (JYO)
 Bob Garity (JYO)
 Michael Gilbert (JYO)
 Todd Givens (RBW)
 Jace Habben (FMY)
 Jason Helmka (PDK)
 Ron Horton (EQY)
 Jonathan Kotwicki (VNC)
 Bob Labrecque (PCM)
 Jon Lambeth (WDR)
 Barry Loomis (LNA)
 Raman Matiana (HEF)
 John McWilliams (JYO)
 Dan Miller (JYO)
 Kelsey Mulloy (FMY)
 Jay Nabors (TTA)
 Rajiv Nowbutt (LNA)
 Dimitri Partafyllas (GMU)
 Tim Plunkett (7FL6)
 Hannah Porter (LNA)
 Todd Shellnutt (LZU)
 Victor Slaughter (FMY)
 Jim Stover (EZF)
 Gary Sumner (DKX)
 Gene Tanton (FMY)
 David Twibell (PDK)
 Odanys Velazquez (OPF)
 Charles Weldon (EET)
 J.D. Williams (FSM)

Jason Wolnek (HWO)
 Reagon Wright (RIC)
 Harry Young (FMY)
 Nathan Zucker (FXE)

MIDWEST

Jim Ader (UGN)
 Al Alwin (LVN)
 Jeff Anderson (UNU)
 Logan Arlis (DPA)
 Peg Ballou (17G)
 Paul Berge (OXV)
 John Boos (UGN)
 Andrew Dow (UIN)
 Jim Fellers (3CK)
 Scott Malcolm (DPA)
 Don Muehlbauer (UES)
 Greg Patchel (RAC)
 Thomas Plambeck (IXD)
 C.C. Pocock (18Y)
 Antonio Rodriguez (LVN)
 Joe Standley (3CK)
 Chad Tieman (SMD)
 Paul Van Brunt (LVN)
 Mark Yankovich (ESC)
 Ed Young (K64)
 Joe Zubay (3CK)

SOUTHWEST

Muhammad Akif (LVJ)
 Jerry Beckner (DWH)
 Scott Campbell (SDL)
 Joe Casey (JSO)
 Brian Childs (OCH)
 Thomas Deyoung (SDL)
 Jeff Kling (LVJ)

Travis Lee (DWH)
 Caleb Park (MFE)
 Jim Pitman (DVT)
 Norman Rathje (76F)
 Russ Roslewski (PWA)
 Bill Scanlan (76F)
 Aaron Schaller (DWH)
 Johnathan Smith (GEU)
 John Winslow (DWH)
 Steve Wong (52F)

WEST

Rebekah Butler (ELN)
 Anthony Cirincione (CYS)
 Bob Delvalle (1S6)
 Jeff Fouche (COE)
 Brad Groesbeck (BZN)
 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 Paraskevopoulos (HWD)
 Jamie Patterson-Simes (MRI)
 Adam Peterson (BFL)
 Harold Rice (SPK)
 Aaron Richman (APA)
 Ernie Swallie (VGT)
 David Waksberg (RHV)
 Kristine Wanner (APA)
 David Wertz (EMT)
 William Woodbury (BFL)