

Careers in Aviation at OSU Discussion Leader Notes



These notes are specific to the YAA program at OSU. If you are interested in starting a YAA program in your community, please download the “Program Handbook” found at <http://youthaviationadventure.org> for the *complete* set of discussion leader notes, along with tips, and other information on how to run this program in your neighborhood.

Please note, these discussion notes should be used as a guideline. You are a professional, and you have a lot to offer our participants. Please be sure to cover the objectives, but know that this is not written in a way that will make you read it word for word. Also, if you’re in a loud area, like on the ramp, you’ll have to speak loudly to be heard.

Objective

Explore careers in aviation

Lesson Materials/Setting

- This session is held in the hangar, so you’ll have to speak loudly.
- Professional guest brings any props available that will help discuss his/her pilot career in an interesting and engaging way.

Time Required: 20 minutes

Setting up the Station:

Table for displaying props, and chairs for participants to sit on.

Lesson Procedure and activities

- In this activity, aviation professionals discuss their paths to their careers in aviation, including college courses, training, the selection process for their various companies, monthly schedules, potential job prospects, and any other items of interest.
- Discussion leaders should be sure to include any relevant hands-on props to make the discussion more interesting.

- This session is held like an informal interview, where the participants and the discussion leader ask questions of one another.
- A good question to begin with might be “What do you think it takes to become a professional xxxx?” (Substitute the xxxx for the profession(s) of the guest(s).
- Props such as model airplanes can help to make the discussion more interesting. Props can be anything from a flight bag, equipment used during flight, charts and maps, etc. The selection of props will depend on the specific discussion leader and his/her line of work.
- Let participants understand what the working day is like. How does it feel to be in the profession, to get up at a certain hour, do certain tasks, work with others, etc.?
- An engaging discussion tactic is to pick a work scenario and ask students to problem solve.

Activity Notes:

- Ideal group size is 10-15 participants. Groups that are too small or too large both prohibit interaction.
- Props get participants more engaged. Discussion leaders are encouraged to bring anything that might increase interaction and engagement by the participants. Suggestions include photos, models, personal stories, helmets, flight bags, or any other props to make it more hands-on and more interesting.
- If possible, this station will include two professional with different lines of work so that students can compare and contrast.

Hands-on component

Anything the discussion leader can bring that might be safely passed around the group would help engage participants and make it more hands-on. Be sure to only pass items around if the discussion leader is comfortable with the prospect of participants dropping it by accident. Each professional will have different experiences and props to share.

Participant handout

Requirements for recreational, private and instrument pilots, IFR requirements, and some additional certifications and endorsements. See following pages for copies of the participant handout.

Also included in the participant handbook is an extensive list of possible careers in aviation. Discussion leaders should point out to the participants where this is in the handbook.

The following pages are taken from the Aviation Careers section of the participant handbook.

Professional Pilot

Certifications, requirements, and privileges of various certifications.

Certificate	Requirements	Privileges
Student Pilot	Read, write, speak and understand English. 16 years old to solo. Medical certificate and pass written test for solo.	Fly with an instructor until solo. After solo, fly solo only with instructor permission in clear skies with no passengers.
Sport Pilot	Read, write, speak and understand English. At least 17 years old. 20 hours flight time (including 15 hours flight training and 5 hours solo) Successful completion of knowledge and practical tests.	Fly with only one other passenger. Fly in VFR weather (clear skies). Passenger may not pay you. May not fly in Class B or Limited to flying a plane with a maximum number of seats, maximum speed, and maximum weight. These are called "light sport aircraft" and are smaller and lighter than normal general aviation planes (e.g. ultralights).
Recreational Pilot	Read, write and speak English. At least 17 years old. Medical certificate. Pass written and practical tests. 30 hours flight time including some solo flying.	Fly no further than 50 nautical miles from home airport. Daytime flying only. VFR flying only. Only one passenger at a time. Passenger may not pay you.
Private Pilot	Read, write and speak English. At least 17 years old. Medical certificate. Pass written and practical tests. 40 hours total flight time including 20 with an instructor and 10 as a solo pilot. Also requires 3 hours instrument time, 3 hours night flying, and 3 hours cross country flying.	Fly with passengers, in VFR weather (clear skies), day or night, for any distance. Passengers may not pay you.
IFR Certification	Private Pilot certificate. Pass written and practical tests. 50 hours cross country as pilot in command. 40 hours instrument experience, 15 hours with an instructor, and a long cross country flight.	Fly with passengers in instrument conditions (clouds), day or night, for any distance. Passengers may not pay you.
Commercial Pilot	At least 18 years old. Private Pilot Certificate. Medical certificate. Pass written and practical tests. At least 250 total flight time including 20 hours with an instructor, 50 hours cross country as pilot in command, 10 hours	Fly with paying passengers in the type of weather certified for. (It is possible to earn a commercial pilot certificate without having an instrument rating. When this is the case, pilot may only fly in VFR weather.)

	of instrument training, 10 hours training in a plane with retractable landing gear, and a long cross country flight.	
Certified Flight Instructor (CFI)	At least 18 years old. Hold either commercial pilot certificate or airline transport pilot certificate. Pass two written tests and a practical test and demonstrated proficiency flying from the right seat.	Teach student pilots.
Certified Flight Instructor, Instruments (CFII)	Same requirements as a CFI but also including the instrument rating.	Teach student pilots to fly by instruments.
Airline Transport Pilot	At least 23 years old. Commercial pilot certificate and an instrument rating. Pass written and practical tests. 2000 hours total flight time, 1000 of which need to be in two different types of aircraft	Work for most commercial airlines. Work for most parcel carriers (FedEx, UPS, USPS, etc.)

Other certifications are required for multiple engine airplanes, float planes, and high performance planes.

Information taken from Federal Aviation Regulations, part 61.