

Helicopter Pilot 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.

Objectives

1. Describe the qualifications and working conditions of being a helicopter pilot.
2. Interview a professional pilot. Report on what you learned.

Lesson Materials/Setting

- This session is offered on the ramp in front of hangar 1 with a real helicopter.
- Pilot brings flight bag, photos, and other props to help discuss his/her pilot career.
- Other materials might include props like a flight helmet and the like. Props will depend partly on who the discussion leader is.

Time Allowed: 20 minutes.

Setting up the Station:

Helicopter parked on ramp is the only setup required.

Lesson Procedure and activities

- This session is held as an informal discussion. The discussion leader uses the helicopter to describe work, the flying routine, and various aspects of the job and allow the participants to ask questions.
- The discussion leader may wish to briefly describe a preflight of a helicopter and let participants compare it with the preflight inspection of an airplane.
- Discussion leaders should describe the path to their career as a helicopter pilot, including college courses, pilot training, building hours, the selection process for the employer, monthly schedules, medical certificates and annual training requirements.
- The discussion leader should be sure to ask questions of the participants to keep them engaged. A good question to begin with might be “What do you think it takes to become a helicopter pilot?” (Reinforce the objectives of the professional pilot session by discussing the various ratings of recreational, private, and instrument pilot.)
- Props such as a flight bag, other equipment used during flight (e.g. helmet) charts and maps, etc. also increase the interest level. The selection of props will depend on the discussion leader and his/her work environment.
- Let participants understand what the working day is like. How does it feel to be a helicopter pilot, to get up at a certain hour, fly certain hours, preflight your helicopter, work with others, etc.? How is this job different from the work of other helicopter pilots?

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. The helicopter is pretty impressive so additional props may not be needed. If available, 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.

Hands-on component

This session is hands-on because of the helicopter parked on the ramp. If the discussion leader is comfortable, allow participants to sit in the helicopter. Walk around it with them and tell stories.

Resources in booklet

There are no resources in the participant handbook specific to this session.