

EAA Chapter 1300

Pilot's Guide for Conducting Eagle Flights

Thank you for being willing to help grow the general aviation pilot population by actively participating in the EAA Eagle Flight program. You are volunteering your time, skill, expertise, gas money and the use of your airplane, and we appreciate your support!

This guide is intended to help you prepare for and conduct a successful Eagle Flight on behalf of EAA Chapter 1300. It's not intended to prescribe absolutely everything that you'll do, or how you'll do it, but to simply serve as a guide that you can refer to, and alter as you see fit, while staying within all FAA rules and regulations, and adhering to all EAA requirements, at all times.

The guide is divided into five sections:

- Pre-Flight Briefing
- Pre-Flight Aircraft Inspection
- Flight Activities
- Post-Flight Securing of the Aircraft
- Post-Flight Briefing

PRE-FLIGHT BRIEFING

- Contact your Eagle Flight candidate and discuss the details of the upcoming flight, like where to meet, when to meet, how to dress (jacket, sunglasses, hat?), what to bring (camera?), etc.
- When you meet, consider putting your phone on "speaker" mode so they can hear you call the FAA for a weather briefing
- Spread out a sectional chart and explain where you'll be taking them and what they can expect to see
- Describe the phases of the flight (taxi, run-up, takeoff, climb, cruise, descent, landing, taxi) and what sensations they can expect to feel during each phase
- Describe your duties and authority during the flight (Pilot In Command, Sole Manipulator of the Controls, Sole Radio Communicator, etc.)
- Describe their duties during the flight (keep their hands off all controls, pedals, buttons, switches and dials unless you instruct them otherwise, etc.)
- Explain that at some point during the flight that you'll allow them to JOIN YOU on the controls and follow along as you demonstrate various flight maneuvers. Do not hold out the promise that they will be allowed to become the sole manipulators of the controls at any time during the flight.
- Answer any questions they have at this point

PRE-FLIGHT AIRCRAFT INSPECTION

- Give the person a copy of the pre-flight checklist and have them read off each item as you walk around the aircraft together. As you complete each item explain the importance of it, and of the entire pre-flight inspection process.
- Secure all items in the aircraft
- Instruct and assist the person in the proper technique for getting into the plane, getting seated, adjusting the seat, securing the seat belts, fitting the headset, etc.
- Describe the location of airsick bags and their proper use

FLIGHT ACTIVITIES

- Have the person read the pre-start and engine start checklists
- Listen to ATIS, and explain its purpose
- Contact ground control, and proceed as instructed
- Taxi as appropriate, asking the person to look out for traffic as you proceed
- Have the person read the run-up checklist and conduct your run-up as appropriate
- Complete any pre-takeoff paperwork, as appropriate
- Contact tower for takeoff clearance, as appropriate
- Once airborne explain what's happening in each phase of flight. Encourage the person to respond to simple questions periodically so they are actively engaged in the flight experience (this also helps you see if they're getting airsick).
- Point out places of interest, much like a good tour guide would
- **NOTE: be very careful of this next option** - Ask them to JOIN YOU on the controls and allow them to follow with you as you execute gentle turns, climbs and descents.
- **NOTE:** no aerobatics, spins, low level buzzing, high G loading, unusual attitudes or formation flying is allowed by the EAA, and their insurance company, during an Eagle Flight. Well, duh.
- **NOTE:** this is your airplane, at no time are you obligated to allow them full control of it. You are not giving them instruction, they are not your student, you are PIC and what you say goes (as always).
- Set up for return to the airport and terminate the flight, as appropriate.

POST-FLIGHT SECURING OF THE AIRCRAFT

- Have the person assist you in securing the aircraft, as appropriate, and explain the importance of this process
- Fill in the aircraft flight logs, as appropriate, and explain the importance of doing so

POST-FLIGHT BRIEFING

- Sit down with the person and debrief the many phases of the flight you just experienced together
- Ask them several questions about things that you discussed during the flight, to test their knowledge
- Allow them to ask whatever questions they have
- Offer to introduce them to the local flight school so they can learn about signing up for ground school, starting flight lessons, buying pilot supplies, etc.
- Offer to mentor them, or answer any questions they may have, as they continue their learning, and give them your contact information
- Tell them they will be receiving a FREE six-month membership in the EAA at the national level
- Invite them to a meeting of EAA Chapter 1300, and tell them they will receive a FREE six-month membership in the chapter when they do