

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FITCHBURG YOUTH WINS SCHOLARSHIP TO AVIATION CAMP IN WISCONSIN

The GREATER BOSTON EAA CHAPTER 106, with 200 members throughout New England, is proud to announce that **BENJAMIN LILLIE** of **FITCHBURG, MA** is one of three youth who have won an aviation scholarship. This EAA106 scholarship covers tuition and airfare to attend the 8-day EAA Advanced Air Academy in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, this summer.

The annual EAA Chapter 106 Youth Scholarship was established in 2012 to expand the aviation knowledge of youth in New England who have demonstrated, through actions, not just words, their passion for aviation. All three of this year's scholarship winners are working to earn money to pay for their own flight lessons, yet have maintained A's and honors in their academics.

Benjamin "mowed lawns, raked leaves, shoveled snow, and did any other odd jobs that became available" and works at a greenhouse to pay for his own lessons. He has maintained all A's in his freshman and sophomore years of high school and continues to do so in his junior year.

Benjamin qualified to fly solo on his sixteenth birthday and expects to complete his private pilot training this spring. He plans to attend Liberty University to obtain a degree in Aeronautics specializing in Corporate/Commercial operations. Benjamin considers this scholarship and the aviation camp to be an "amazing opportunity" to not only meet over 40 other youth "who are just as passionate about aviation" but to also gain knowledge to help him "mentor (other) young pilots".

The EAA Air Academy offers youth ages 16-18 the opportunity to meet and work with aviation professionals, while living and learning the arts, sciences, and lore of aviation in both classroom and workshop settings.

Several days of the Academy take place during the world's largest and most exciting aviation event -- EAA AirVenture 2014. Participants in the EAA Air Academy come from around the United States and several foreign countries.

Academy activities will include flight experiences, workshops (including aircraft construction, restoration and maintenance), and classroom study. EAA's Director of Museum & Museum Education, Bob Campbell, says, "The EAA Air Academy teaches young people new skills and instills a pride of craftsmanship. More importantly, it develops their leadership potential and broadens their understanding of both aviation and themselves. The EAA Air Academy is a benchmark of personal experience . . . and an aviation experience that will last a lifetime."

Campbell added that "those who are interested in attending any of EAA's Air Academy Programs, should write to: Experimental Aircraft Association, Inc., Resident Education Office, PO Box 3086, Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54903-3086. Applicants need not be EAA members. The prime consideration is an interest and enthusiasm for aviation."

EAA Chapter 106 is the largest of several EAA chapters in New England. Like many of the roughly 1,000 EAA chapters worldwide, EAA106 flies youth on free flight experiences as part of EAA's Young Eagles program. For more information on EAA Chapters and to locate a chapter, go to Programs at EAA.org. For more information on the EAA Young Eagles program, go to YoungEagles.org.

For more information on EAA Chapter 106 and the essays submitted by the 2014 scholarship winners, go to 106.EAAChapter.org.

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