

SUMMARY

The Ray Foundation Scholarship is a competitive scholarship offered to juniors ahead of their senior year in the flight program at West Michigan Aviation Academy. The scholarship is established to award students based on aviation merit who are pursuing a career in aviation beyond high school. Awarded funds may only be used for private pilot flight training at WMAA.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Current Junior at West Michigan Aviation Academy
- Pursuing the opportunity to earn a private pilot license within the WMAA flight training program
- Demonstrated passion for the field of aviation
- Must maintain both good standing with the WMAA Student Code of Conduct & WMAA Flight Training Expectations
- Proof of acquired 3rd Class Medical or higher
- Proof of passing FAA Written exam for Private Pilot pending - will not have score by application deadline, but will be required to pass to qualify for awarded scholarship funds.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Application materials should be submitted as one PDF document that includes:

- A completed application form (see below)
- Proof of acquired 3rd Class Medical or higher
- Proof of volunteer hours - 10 hours minimum
- One letter of recommendation (cannot be from WMAA faculty or family member)
- One video submission, provided as public YouTube link (2 minutes or less), answering the following prompt:
 - What has led to your interest in participating in the flight program at West Michigan Aviation Academy?
 - What are your future aviation aspirations?
- Proof of passing FAA Written exam for Private Pilot
- The selection committee will review all complete applications submitted by the deadline.
- The scholarship is awarded without regard to race, sex, religion, age or national origin.

AMOUNT

- Top Tier = \$6,500 (40 flight hours) 1 recipient
- Mid Tier = \$2,500 (approx. 15 flight hours) 2 recipients
- Low Tier = \$1,500 (approx. 10 flight hours) 3 recipients

Scholarship funds will be credited to the student's SkyManager account at the start of their Senior year, pending all requirements have been met.

TIMELINE

- February 2, 2026 - The Ray Foundation Scholarship application opens
- March 2, 2026 - The Ray Foundation Scholarship applications are due
- May 19, 2026 - The Ray Foundation Scholarship winners announced at the Spring Awards Assembly

WMAAF

The West Michigan Aviation Academy Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization established in 2019 in support of West Michigan Aviation Academy. The Foundation's role is to cultivate donors and private philanthropy, raising the additional money needed to fund priorities set by West Michigan Aviation Academy.

WMAAF ADDRESS:

A: 5363 44th Street, Grand Rapids, MI 49512

E: scholarships@wmaafoundation.org W: wmaafoundation.org

THANK YOU FOR APPLYING

DATE OF REGISTRATION

/ /

STUDENT INFORMATION

Full Name :

Email :

Address :

City : State : Zip Code :

Weighted 5th Semester GPA Current Grade Level

APPLICATION

Application materials should be submitted as one PDF document that includes:

- A completed application form
- Please provide typed/short answer response to the following:
 - Please list notable academic achievements.
 - Please list clubs/extra-curricular activities you have been involved with during your time at WMAA.
- Please provide typed/short answer responses regarding your volunteer hours - 10 hours minimum
 - How many aviation specific volunteer hours have you acquired?
 - List the specific events/tasks you have helped with during these volunteer opportunities.
 - Describe how these volunteer hours have contributed to your pursuit of being an aviator.
- One letter of recommendation (cannot be from WMAA faculty or family member)
- One video submission, provided as public YouTube link (2 minutes or less), answering the following prompt:
 - What has led to your interest in participating in the flight program at West Michigan Aviation Academy? What are your future aviation aspirations?
- Proof of acquired 3rd Class Medical or higher
- Proof of volunteer hours - 10 hours minimum
- Proof of passing FAA Written exam for Private Pilot pending - will not have score by application deadline, but will be required to pass to qualify for awarded scholarship funds.

SIGNATURE

All of the information provided is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if asked by an authorized official, I agree to give proof of the information stated on this form. I also understand that any falsified information is cause to revoke any further scholarship funds, and could result in repayment of any monies already paid.

By signing below, we grant West Michigan Aviation Academy staff permission to share free or reduced lunch status information with the scholarship committee for the sole purpose of identifying demonstrated financial need.

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

SUBMIT APPLICATION

Please submit your application, along with all necessary documentation, to the West Michigan Aviation Academy Foundation at scholarships@wmaafoundation.org no later than March 2, 2026 at 4:00pm.