

PIREPS

Inspiring the Next Generation: 2026 Aviation Art Contest

By Jeremy Borrell, NDOT Division of Aeronautics

The Nebraska Department of Transportation's Division of Aeronautics is once again proud to sponsor the annual International Aviation Art Contest, a program that invites young Nebraskans to explore their creativity while celebrating the wonder of flight. Each year, this contest brings together students from across the globe, encouraging them to use art as a way of connecting people to the limitless possibilities of aviation.

The 2026 theme is "Fly to Save Lives." In Nebraska, this isn't just a slogan—it's what aviation does every day. Whether it's medical helicopters rushing patients to hospitals, aircraft delivering supplies during emergencies, or aerial firefighters protecting lives and property, aviation makes a difference in communities across our state. This year's contest gives students a chance to capture that reality and imagine how flight continues to serve people when it matters most.

Entries will be judged in three age categories, with Nebraska winners advancing to national and possibly international competition. Winning artwork will be shared widely, reminding us all that aviation is more

than movement—it is a force for good that touches lives and communities.

We are especially grateful for the support of the Nebraska Aviation Council as well as the volunteers who give their time to judge the art entries each year. Their commitment makes this program possible and ensures that the creativity of our youth is recognized and celebrated.

I encourage all PIREPs readers to share this opportunity with their local educators and schools. By doing so, you help inspire participation, foster a love of aviation, and showcase the incredible talents of Nebraska's young artists. Together, we can highlight how aviation not only connects our state but also saves lives. Contest guidelines and entry forms are available on the NDOT Aeronautics website.

For contest rules and information, visit dot.nebraska.gov/aeronautics/art-contest or contact Mark Langrud, NDOT Division of Aeronautics 402-471-7932 | mark.langrud@nebraska.gov

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Calling all kids ages 6-17
interested in participating in the

2026 AVIATION ART CONTEST "Fly To Save Lives"



Submission deadline: January 16, 2026

Fly Girl Fly – Girls in Aviation Day 2025

By Cara Houk, Alternate Parts Solutions Coordinator – Duncan Aviation, Chair – GIAD, President – Cornhusker WAI

The Cornhusker Chapter of Women in Aviation International (WAI) proudly hosted its third annual Girls in Aviation Day (GIAD) on Sunday, September 21, at Lincoln Airport's Hangar B. We were beyond thrilled to welcome more than 150 attendees this year as girls of all ages—and their families—explored the many exciting opportunities within the aviation industry.

Hands-On Learning

Aviation partners from across the community came together to provide fun and educational experiences:

- North Star's Skills students guided participants in safety-wiring and riveting demonstrations.
- Students engaged with engine models, rockets, and paper airplane competitions to see the science of flight come alive.
- Community booths and organizations offered face painting, STEM activities, and insights into a wide variety of aviation careers.

These interactive experiences gave participants the chance to explore aviation from every angle—whether it be engineering, piloting, airport operations, or aerospace innovation.

Ramp and Static Displays

The outdoor ramp brought the excitement to life with six aircraft on display and an Air Force fire truck. Attendees were able to step inside aircraft, meet with aviation professionals, and discover the many career paths

available in and around aviation. The fire truck was a big hit—showing that the aviation industry includes many essential roles beyond flying.

Inspiring Guest Speaker

The highlight of the day was our guest speaker, Jessy Panzer. With more than 9,700 hours of flight time as an aerobatic, corporate, bush, and flight instructor pilot, Jessy captivated the audience with stories and videos from her aviation journey. She left the girls inspired to chase big dreams and confident that their place in aviation is waiting for them.

Gratitude

From the bottom of my heart, thank you to every volunteer, partner, and sponsor who helped make GIAD 2025 such a success. Your time, energy, and enthusiasm made this an unforgettable day of learning, inspiration, and empowerment.

The Cornhusker Chapter of WAI is proud to be part of Women in Aviation International, a global organization dedicated to increasing the number of women in all areas of aviation and aerospace.

Thank You to Our Sponsors

- Nebraska Business Aviation Association (NeBAA)
 - Kirkham Michael
 - Lincoln Airport (LNK)
 - Atlantic Aviation
 - Duncan Aviation
 - White Castle Roofing



Photos taken at the Fly Girl Fly - Girls in Aviation Event



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October

- 10/4** | Fly-In Breakfast | Stuart-Atkinson Municipal Airport (8V2) | 8- 11am | Free Will Donation, All who fly (122.9) eat free
- 10/5** | EAA 918 Fly-In Breakfast | Norfolk Regional Airport (OFK) | 8-11am | Public Welcome
- 10/18** | EAA 569 Fly-In Breakfast | Wahoo Municipal Airport (AHQ) | 8-10am | suggested donation: \$10/adults; \$5/kids
- 10/25** | NEAAA Hamburger Fly-In | Hastings Municipal Airport (HSI) | 11:30am-1pm
- 10/25** | Harlan Municipal Airport (KHN), Harlan, IA Soup Fly-In | 11am-1pm CDT | All fly-ins eat free
- 10/25** | Burgers & Brats | Wayne Municipal Airport (LCG) | 5-8pm

November

- 11/8-11/9** | Lincoln Aerospace Heritage Days | Duncan Aviation, Lincoln Airport (LNK) | 8am-5pm
- 11/15** | EAA 569 Fly-In Breakfast | Wahoo Municipal Airport (AHQ) | 8-10am | suggested donation: \$10/adults; \$5/kids

December

- 12/10-12/12** | Drone Bootcamp – FAA Part 107 Training hosted by Prairie STEM | 1111 N 13th St., Suite 307, Omaha, NE | 8am-2pm | Register: <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/drone-bootcamp/items>
- 12/20** | EAA 569 Fly-In Breakfast | Wahoo Municipal Airport (AHQ) | 8-10am | suggested donation: \$10/adults; \$5/kids

Fuel Crossfeed

By David Morris

Fuel crossfeed systems are also unique to multiengine airplanes. Using crossfeed, an engine can draw fuel from a fuel tank located in the opposite wing. On most multiengine airplanes, operation in the cross feed mode is an emergency procedure used to extend airplane range and endurance. There are a few models that permit crossfeed as a normal, fuel balancing technique in normal operation, but these are not common. The AFM/POH will describe crossfeed limitations and procedures, which vary significantly among multiengine airplanes. Checking crossfeed operation on the ground with a quick repositioning of the fuel selectors does nothing more than ensure freedom of motion of the handle. To actually check crossfeed operation, a complete, functional crossfeed system check should be accomplished. To do this, each engine should be operated from its crossfeed position during the runup. The engines should be checked individually, and allowed to run at moderate power (1,500 r.p.m. minimum) for at least 1 minute to ensure that fuel flow can be established from the crossfeed source. Upon completion of the check, each engine should be operated for at least 1 minute at moderate power from the main (takeoff) fuel tanks to reconfirm fuel flow prior to takeoff.

This suggested check is not required prior to every flight. Infrequently used, however, crossfeed lines are ideal places for water and debris to accumulate unless they are used from time to time and drained using their external drains during preflight. Crossfeed is ordinarily not used for completing single-engine flights when an alternate airport is readily at hand, and it is never used during takeoff or landings. ■