



“Letting Youth Soar”

High Hopes for Teens is an aviation program for youth. They learn life skills while becoming excited about being part of something positive. There are few things that rival the self confidence gained through aviation.

High Hopes for Teens provides an unparalleled and life-changing outlet to enable youth to soar into the future. The transformational experience of professional aviation orientation, training, and mentorship can be the positive element in a youth’s life and establish them on the path to success in all aspects of their life. That special moment when the yoke is pulled back and the airplane lifts off the ground could be the first time a youth is in complete control of their life and is an experience that will never be forgotten.

Our mission is to put youth in need of a positive experience into the cockpit of an airplane. We seek to touch youth outside the mainstream who are in need of a challenge and are committed to help them meet this challenge through aviation. The combination of our professional staff and aircraft will enable these youth to gain self esteem, a sense of belonging, and pride in their success.



While we do not believe that High Hopes for Teens can cure all the problems of our youth, we do believe that engaging youth in aviation will give them a vision for their future based on the knowledge that they can control their life, as they learn to control an airplane. An inspirational example of what can be accomplished is the story of Barrington Irving. Born in Jamaica and moved to South Florida as a youth; he saw no way or incentive for a minority youth to achieve professional success in the inner city until he became involved in aviation. At 23 he was the youngest person and first black pilot to fly around the world solo. High Hopes for Teens seeks to offer youth in our community like Barrington an opportunity to establish and achieve their goals. Scholarships will be provided through donations and grants.

High Hopes for Teens Programs:

Aviation Orientation: Youth are offered an introduction to aviation through ground and flight operations orientation experiences. The goal isn’t to make a pilot out of everyone, but to let youth understand their capabilities through repeated meetings with aviation professionals.

Private Pilot Certification: Qualified youth are offered an opportunity to participate in a structured ground and flight program aimed to enable them to earn their private pilot’s license. This program could take from six months to over a year depending on the youth’s aptitude, schedule, and funding.

Current Events: Six Colorado Springs youth from the Pikes Peak Minority Opportunity Fund and the Youth Transformation Center began the Aviation Orientation program in the Spring of 2009. They toured local aviation operations such as Sky West airlines maintenance operations and during the fourth session took an introductory flight. In June 2009 they were joined by two brothers from the Knights of Heroes program and participated in a four day mini-summer camp. In the mornings they learned about aviation opportunities at a local War Bird Restoration facility, toured the Colorado Springs airport terminal, and visited the local Air Traffic Control facility. Every afternoon they took to the air with certificated flight instructors to experience flight from the pilot’s seat. These youth have continued on to start their private pilot certification program.



High Hopes for Teens is a Disability Services of Colorado 501 (c) 3 program. Flight and ground operations are conducted at the Peak Aviation Center, 1360 Aviation Way, Colorado Springs, CO (www.cospilot.com). More information can be found at www.highhopesforteens.com or by contacting Allen “Al” Mathews at Peak Aviation Center, (719)573-4452 (allen@cospilot.com).