



THE EAGLE'S WINGS

A NEWSLETTER FOR CHAPTER COORDINATORS, FIELD REPRESENTATIVES
AND SUPPORTERS OF THE YOUNG EAGLES PROGRAM



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GREETINGS

Can Fall really be right around the corner? I can hardly believe that EAA Air Venture 2004 has been over for more than a month already. Thank you so much to all who volunteer to help us during that week. It was good to greet and meet each one of you ☺ Fall is a great time to put together a Young Eagles rally. The kids are back in school and clubs and youth groups are looking for activities. Our goal for 2004 is to fly 100,000 Young Eagles and we still need your support to meet that goal.

CHAPTER GOALS

Please notify our office when your Chapter has reached your goal for the year. If you forgot to mail the goal card, but did establish a goal for 2004, that's okay too. Just let us know what your goal was and how many Young Eagles the Chapter has flown. We like to give special recognition to all of the Chapters that complete this extra effort.

TRICK OR TREAT

This terrific idea came from EAA Chapter 80 in Omaha, Neb., several years ago. With Halloween just around the corner, the Chapter decided to use Trick or Treat as an opportunity to spread the word about the Young Eagles Program. When Trick or Treaters come to your home, have a small handout ready to give out along with the candy. The handouts can briefly tell about the program, a local contact, and an upcoming Young Eagles day you have planned. You could also use the existing Young Eagles Brochure and write the contact information on the space provided. This is a great way to let local families know about your Chapter and the Young Eagles Program. Let us know if you try it.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

On October 23, 2004, volunteers nationwide will participate in *Make a Difference Day*. This is part of an annual, one-day challenge issued by the Paul Newman Foundation. We're encouraging EAA members and Chapters to organize as many Young Eagles rallies as possible. This can be the day you extend an invitation to the local Boys and Girls Clubs, Big Brothers and Sisters or any of the service groups located in your community. The media coverage generated from our participation – locally and nationally – will provide Young Eagles with a platform to showcase our efforts; attract thousands of new participants; and recognize our dedicated volunteers. The Paul Newman Foundation awards ten \$10,000 grants each year to organizations that participate. We'd like to submit a report and seek selection for one of these prestigious national awards. If selected, the prize will be put in our Young Eagles credit program, which allows you to keep making a difference in the lives of young people by providing scholarships to the EAA Air Academy. We need your help to make this happen. Please contact our office so that we can gauge the impact EAA members will have on this day. We have created a generic news release that can be customized to your specific event. Thank you for helping us continue to make a difference in the lives of thousands of deserving children! For more information about Make A Difference Day, please visit the Make A Difference Day web site at <http://www.usaweekend.com/diffday/index.html>.

YOUNG EAGLES WEBSITE

We have completed the preliminary research phase for the new Young Eagles web site. This has included focus groups of Young Eagles, Air Academy participants and Young Eagle volunteers. The research has helped determine the direction for the site. Our goal for the site is to become a portal for young people interested in aviation. Hands on and interactive activities and information about all of EAA's youth programs will anchor the site. Our next step is to begin the process of constructing the site and preparing for the initial launch later this year. The process has taken a bit longer than we first anticipated, but we feel that spending time now researching and planning will be time well spent. We'll keep you updated on our progress.

VIDEO AVAILABLE

We have a supply of the King Video, "Let's Go Flying", available upon request. The program is described as "your first flight lesson on video" and would make an excellent addition to your Chapter's library or for use at Young Eagle events. Just let us know and we would be happy to send you one.

GROUND VOLUNTEERS

Please remember to recognize your Ground Support Volunteers. We all know how valuable they are to the success of your events! We can send a personalized Certificate of Appreciation or Flightline Volunteer pin. The recognition guidelines can be found in your Chapter Coordinator folder.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Fall always brings about changes -- not only in the weather -- but it seems to be a good time of year to make personal changes, too. Don't let the Young Eagles Program become so routine that you are not enjoying it as much as you used to. Try something different.

- Contact a few new pilots.
- Add a picnic after the event for your Volunteers.
- Recruit children from a local youth group you've not worked with before.
- Have a contest while the kids are waiting for their flight.

There are any number of ideas you could try. Even if you have flown hundreds of kids, remember to that particular young person, this could be their very first time in the air!

Keep in touch and take care. If I can be of any assistance, please contact me: Telephone: 877-806-8902, e-mail: mkunes@eaa.org or via mail at: PO Box 2683, Oshkosh, WI 54903-2683.

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