

THE BOSHEARS SKYFEST SCHOLARSHIP

Al Patton, Al Nodorft, and Becky Shealy reviewed the thirteen scholarship applications. Then they chose the best five for interviews. From those they chose the three scholarship winners. The scholarship is called the *Boshears Skyfest Scholarship* and is a combination of the Al Patton Scholarship (\$1000), Augusta Aviation (\$1000), and The Hodges Brothers (\$5,000). Three applicants were chosen to receive 10 hours of flight instruction. The one who shows the most promise will then get money to finish his or her pilot's license training.

Here are two of the winning essays:

Michael P. Davis

Why I Want to be a Pilot

I am Michael P. Davis and this is why I want to be a pilot:

From the time I was two years old, I have dreamed of becoming a pilot. My dreams started with the movie, "There Goes an Airplane". I probably watched that movie thousands of times, and it was the only movie I can remember watching as a child. The fact that a machine could fly in the air like a bird fascinated me. I was amazed that these airplanes could carry people from place to place, be used in the military, or be used for entertainment purposes.

In addition to my growing childhood interest in airplanes, my parents also played a big role in why I want to be a pilot. My mother, a flight attendant for Delta, used to take me to Atlanta to see the many international airlines. The nature of her work allowed me to go onto the planes, meet various pilots, and learn about all the companies. My mom also gave me a coffee table book that listed all the different airline logos, names, and different types of airplanes. By age three I had memorized each and every logo, name, and type of airplane in the book. Every year as Christmas approached I would ask for a model of the airplane that interested me most that year. Over the next few years I had accumulated a huge collection of model airplanes.

In addition to my mother's influence of my love of flying and airplanes, my father also played a large role. He was a RANGER in the military, so he took me to McDill Air Force Base, where I was able to see different military helicopters and airplanes. Our family also went to annual air shows at Fort Bragg North Carolina, and Boshears in Augusta. Airplanes became an obsession; the more I found out about airplanes the more interested I became. My obsession continued to grow when I learned of the private pilot's license. At about the age of eleven I was told that I could start working on my pilot's license, but could not obtain it until I was 16 years old. A very determined individual, I have been working on gaining the necessary hours for the private pilot's license so that I may hopefully obtain it as soon as I turn sixteen.

The past summer, I spent six weeks at Culver Military Academy where I amassed a total of twelve flight hours and class room instruction about being a pilot. I am hoping to pursue the final hours to meet the requirements of the private pilot's license. This childhood dream of becoming a pilot continues to develop as I am always trying to gain more knowledge of flying and airplanes. After achieving my goal of becoming a private pilot, I want to eventually join the military and serve my country by flying airplanes for the greater good. This childhood obsession will follow me the rest of my life, and will always be the reason why I want to be a pilot.

Nico Hoernle

Why do I want to become a pilot?

There is something to flying that's simply magical. You not only see the world from a different perspective but also life itself.

I have great difficulty explaining it and to truly understand I think you'll just have to hop in a small aircraft and try it yourself. It's the excitement prior to getting into the plane, the sensation of losing contact with the ground during liftoff and the feeling of weightlessness as you soar 7,000 feet above the ground. These are but a little part of the intricacy of flight.

Never in my life have I made a decision that will affect my future so much as the one of becoming a pilot! Though I can't say that I always wanted to become a pilot, it has always interested me. It just seemed too far away to ever accomplish.

A couple of weeks ago I went on an introductory flight with a fairly young pilot and my dad. Since then I can't get the idea of flying out of my head. It felt great just to clear my mind and forget about everything else for a change and boy, did I relish every second of having control of the plane. It now feels intrinsic to me. Flying has already had an enormous impact on my life.

So currently I am an aspiring young pilot in High School that discovered what he truly loves doing. The reason why I am so torn in half is because I am also interested in the human body and the humanities. I have given both of these ideas a lot of thought and since lately a lot of people have been telling me to do what I love for a living, I have come to the conclusion that I am going to do both.

I want to obtain my pilots license and become a doctor in a remote area of the globe where people need doctors but don't have access to them, maybe it could be in Alaska or South America. I undoubtedly want to do this for my future and with enough determination I will strive to attain my goal. This choice of lifestyle might not make me a millionaire but at the end of the day I don't think that matters all that much. Doing what you love comes at a price though, and I'll be facing a financial thunderstorm in the years to come.

Being a bush pilot and a doctor at the same time, that is my dream. That will be my part in trying to ameliorate the worlds suffering. And that is the reason why I want to earn my wings!