

# 8 Things to know about Aviation Exploring

Introduce the next generation to aviation careers



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Vice Chairman, Learning for Life Executive Board (parent organization of Exploring)

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Aviation Club for teenagers

Affiliate of the Boy Scouts of America

One mission: introduce young people to aviation careers

# *aviation exploring*

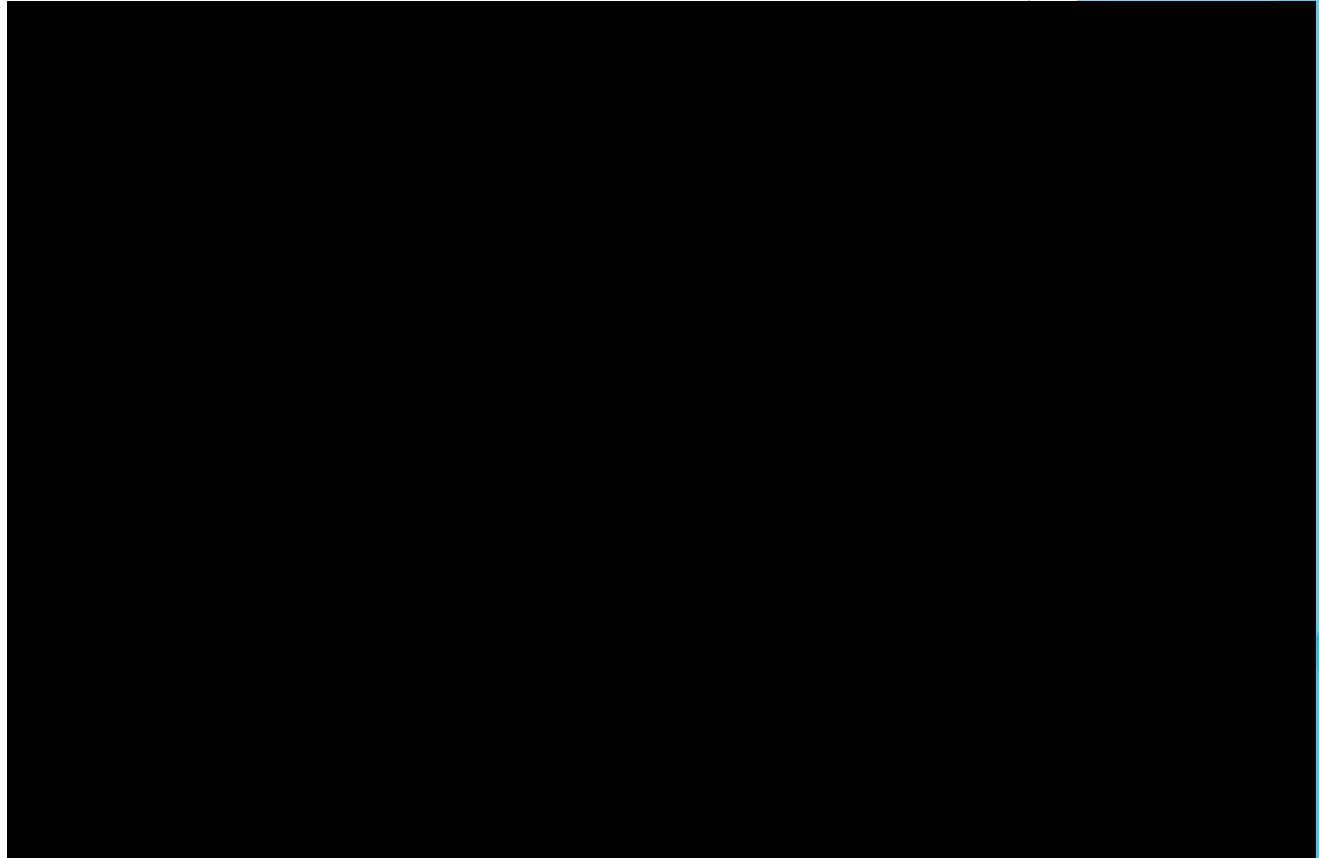


## Typical meeting:

- Welcome
- Educational component
- Program
  - Guest speaker, tour
  - Hands-on component

# Didi, Aviation Explorer

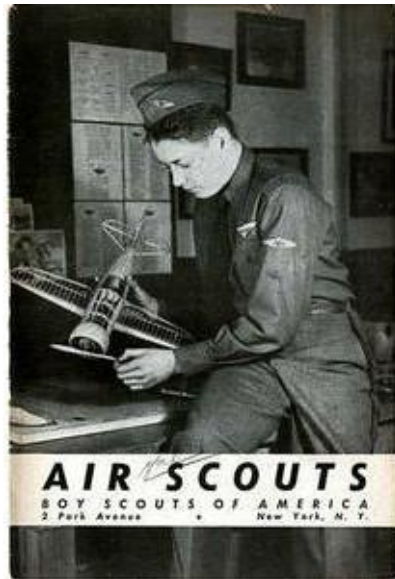
Aviation Exploring,  
in her words...



# Aviation exploring: a program steeped in history

From Air Scouts to Aviation Exploring

# Air scouts & Air Explorers 1941 - 1965



# Air Scouts and Air Explorers

Emphasis on military aviation

Flying component

Pilot centric





# Aviation Explorers: 1965 - 1985

- ▶ Emphasis shift to civilian aviation
- ▶ Pilot centric
- ▶ Some career mentoring



# Aviation Exploring: 1985 - Present

- ▶ Emphasis of program shifts to careers
  - ▶ All career fields; pilot, mechanic, air traffic controller, avionics technician....
  - ▶ Flying primarily in the form of introductory flights



# Aviation Exploring: 2014 - present

Exploring Explosion, a renaissance  
Initiative launched by national office  
of the BSA

New Chief Scout Executive was an  
Explorer as a youth

Intensive training to all 250+ local  
Scout offices, in person and webinars



# #1 Aviation

## Exploring is for boys and girls

Ages 14 - 20



## #2 Exploring is all about careers...(and more)

STEM based program

Learn about many careers, not only pilot

Get youth “behind the fence”

Fun activities too: orientation flights, drone build, museum tours



# #2 Exploring is all about careers... (and more)

- ▶ EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING
  - ▶ LEARN FROM THE EXPERTS
  - ▶ RELY ON STRENGTHS OF YOUR AVIATION COMMUNITY
    - ▶ GUEST SPEAKERS
    - ▶ COMPANY TOURS
    - ▶ SIMULATORS
    - ▶ BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES
      - ▶ AIRCRAFT
      - ▶ DRONES



# #3 Aviation Exploring has the support of the aviation industry



# #3 Aviation Exploring has the support of the aviation industry

- ▶ More partners to be announced soon
- ▶ Let Aviation Exploring be your youth program
- ▶ \$40,000 industry supported Aviation Exploring Scholarship Program



# #3a Aviation Exploring has the support of the aviation industry (local)

- ▶ Cities have unique aviation industry
- ▶ 20,000 airports in the United States
- ▶ Small or large companies
- ▶ Strengthen the aviation community

## #4 There is a nationwide sales force

- Professional sales force
- BSA/Learning for Life
- Fundraising opportunities
- Help with recruiting
  - Youth
  - Volunteers
  - Industry Support



# #5 Leadership

- ▶ Adult sponsored/youth lead
  - ▶ Officers
  - ▶ Well rounded
  - ▶ Valuable to future employers



# #5 Leadership

## ▶ Access to BSA library of character and leadership lessons

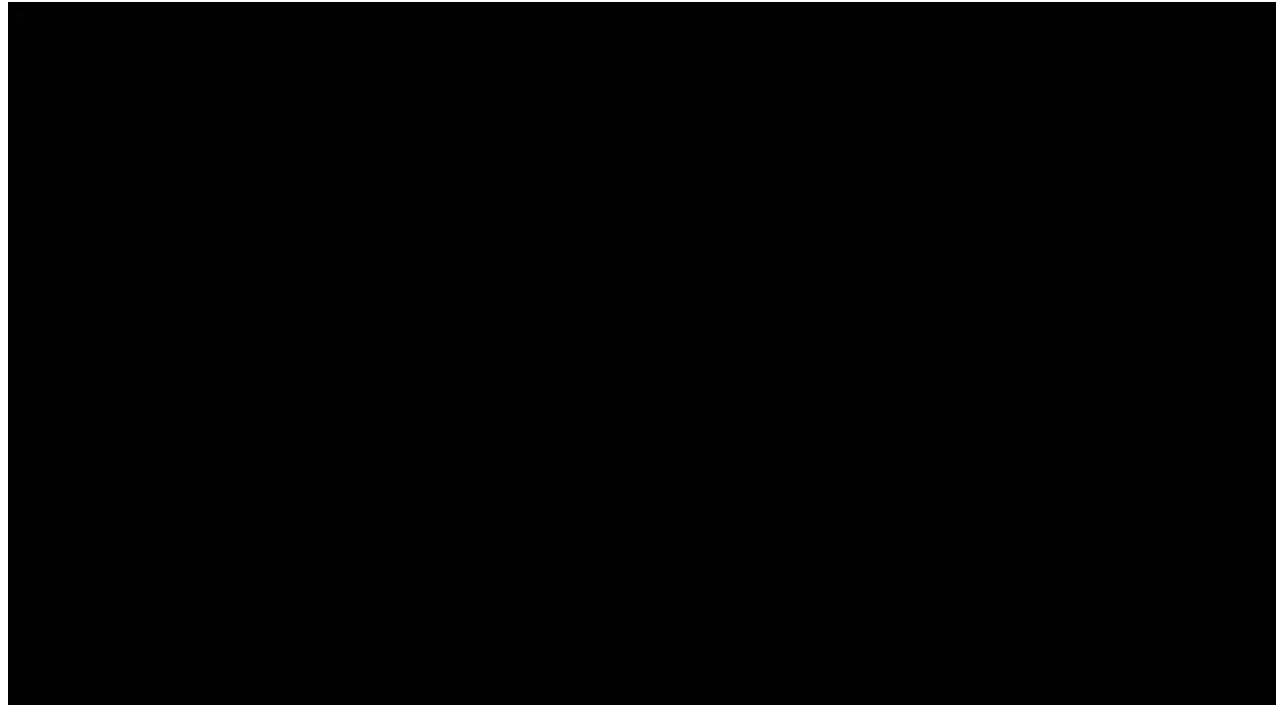
- ▶ Academic Skills
- ▶ Character
- ▶ College and Career Prep
- ▶ Communication
- ▶ Computer literacy
- ▶ Ethics
- ▶ Leadership
- ▶ Social Skills
- ▶ More...



# #6 Aviation Exploring is a great partner

- ▶ Works as a stand-alone or complimentary to other aviation programs
- ▶ Start with an Aviation Exploring program as a pre-cursor to your aviation high school program
- ▶ Enrich an existing aviation high school program with an Aviation Exploring program
- ▶ STEM opportunities

# #6 Great partner STEM Aviation Exploring



# #7 National organization enhances value

- ▶ You get to focus on the youth and the program
- ▶ National opportunities
  - ▶ Scholarships
  - ▶ Conferences
    - ▶ Aviation Exploration Base Camp, Oshkosh, WI
- ▶ Let Aviation Exploring take care of
  - ▶ Insurance
  - ▶ Adult training
  - ▶ Youth protection training
  - ▶ Youth leadership training



# #8 Explorers are the future...

- ▶ Explorers are valuable to the community
  - ▶ Attract young people to the aviation workforce
    - ▶ Large and small communities
  - ▶ Visit local airport - ask for support
    - ▶ Airport manager
    - ▶ Airport businesses
    - ▶ Flight schools



Explorers are the future employees and customer for the aviation industry



“

Without a freshman class, in  
just four years there will be no  
graduates

”

Hal Shevers, Founder/Chairman, Sporty's Pilot shop

# Aviation Exploring - Takeaways

- ▶ Aviation Exploring is a great way to start your aviation program or enhance an existing program
- ▶ Help is available to you during program startup and beyond
- ▶ Partnering with Exploring will open doors for young people into opportunities they would otherwise not have access

# Getting started

- ▶ AviationExploring.com
- ▶ Mark Wiesenhahn,  
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- ▶ Contact local Boy Scouts of America office, ask for Learning for Life representative