

About

the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) and AOPA Foundation



AOPA and AOPA Foundation staff

AOPA is a not-for-profit membership organization that was incorporated on May 15, 1939. From the start, AOPA has fought to protect the freedom to fly while keeping general aviation safe, fun, and affordable. Growing from 2,000 members the first year, nearly 400,000 individuals are AOPA members today.

The AOPA team, operating out of offices in Frederick, Maryland, Washington, DC, and Wichita, Kansas, exists to protect and to grow the incredible privilege that we call general aviation. It is in that sector of aviation that future airline pilots are trained. Whether it is through educating the public about the fun and the utility that aircraft can provide, preparing resources and training material to enhance the skills of pilots everywhere, or advocating for aviation within government agencies—it is our job to maintain the strength and vitality of the flying community. Our mission is to ensure that the sky remains within reach of everyone who dreams of becoming a pilot.

Formed in 2007, the 501(c)(3) AOPA Foundation raises funds to support programs that AOPA membership dues don't fund, such as the You Can Fly program and the Air Safety Institute. Based in Frederick, Maryland, the team works collaboratively with the AOPA team to achieve the common goal of increasing the pilot population and making flying accessible, affordable, and fun.

Mission of AOPA

We protect your freedom to fly by...

- advocating on behalf of our members,
- educating pilots, nonpilots, and policy makers alike,
- supporting activities that ensure the long-term health of General Aviation,
- fighting to keep General Aviation accessible to all, and
- securing sufficient resources to ensure our success.

Mission of the AOPA Foundation

The AOPA Foundation, Inc., a tax-exempt charitable, educational, and scientific organization, will educate the general public on the value of general aviation. The AOPA Foundation works to improve aviation safety, preserve and improve community airports, and encourages learning to fly for career and personal benefit – all in the interest of ensuring the future of general aviation in America.