



SUNDAY, NOV. 16

12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Registration Open

1:00 P.M. – 4:00 p.m. | Breakout Sessions

Aviation 101 Boot Camp

New to teaching aviation? This hands-on seminar will fast-track your aviation knowledge. In under three hours, you'll dive into the fundamentals, including aerodynamics, key aircraft components, and systems. You'll also get an introduction to FAA regulations, the air traffic control system (ATC), and the National Airspace System (NAS). Explore the pilot certification process and walk away with a toolkit of free and low-cost resources to keep your learning climbing.

Advanced Aviation Boot Camp

Ready to take the next step? This seminar lays out the path to becoming an FAA-certificated ground instructor. Learn about the certificate types, eligibility requirements, and what it takes to prepare for FAA Knowledge Tests. You'll leave with study strategies and a roadmap for certification—perfect for educators who want to level up their aviation expertise. Please note: this seminar is an introduction; additional preparation will be required to fully prepare for the FAA Ground Instructor Knowledge Tests.

Introduction to the Curriculum Boot Camp

Curious about AOPA's curriculum but not sure where to start? This session breaks down the core principles, resources, and strategies that power it. Whether you're brand-new, refreshing your understanding, or looking to strengthen your classroom approach, you'll see how the curriculum can take your teaching and students' learning to new heights.

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Exhibit Hall Open

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Opening Night Social

MONDAY, NOV. 17



7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. | Registration Open

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. | Breakfast

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. | Opening General Session *(Details coming soon!)*

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | Networking Break

10:15 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Exhibit Hall Open

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. | Breakout Sessions

Introducing the AOPA Foundation Curriculum

Discover the free AOPA Foundation High School Aviation STEM Curriculum changing classrooms nationwide. Get a high-level look at its rigor, hands-on activities, and comprehensive teacher support system. Join us to see how easy it is to get started.

The Aviation Job Outlook: Reading the Tea Leaves

Is aviation really facing a workforce shortage, or is that hype? This session goes beyond the headlines. Our expert panel will cut through the noise to give you a realistic picture of aviation hiring trends and the future demand for pilots, mechanics, and aerospace professionals.

Aviation Competitions: Engaging Students and Promoting Networking

Competitions fuel excitement, teamwork, and real-world skills. Hear from educators who've launched state and regional challenges, plus organizations hosting national competitions. You'll leave with ideas and practical advice to plug your students into existing opportunities or even start your own!

Drones in the Classroom

Yes, they're fun, but drones are powerful teaching tools, too. Bring your lessons to life by using drones as hands-on learning tools. In this session, you'll discover how to select and manage drones for classroom use, keep them operating safely, and use them to spark curiosity, teamwork, and innovation in your students.

Sponsored Session: *Details coming soon!*

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. | Breakout Sessions

From Great Idea to Day One of Instruction: Starting a New High School Aviation Program

Launching a high school aviation program can feel overwhelming until you know the flight plan. The AOPA High School team has helped hundreds of programs get off the ground. They'll share proven strategies for pitching, planning, and rolling out programs that last. Bring your questions and leave with a roadmap to success.

Myths and Realities in Aviation NEW!

"Flying is too expensive." "You have to be perfect in math." "It's not for people like me." Sound familiar? In this myth-busting session, we'll arm you with facts to inspire students and help them see aviation as a real, achievable goal.

Let's Build an Airplane: Engaging Students in Aircraft Construction

Few things are more motivating than building a real airplane. From joining local projects to creating a formal build program, you'll learn how to connect students to this unique hands-on experience and why it's one of the best ways to teach design, teamwork, and technical skills.

Drone Lab: *Details coming soon!*

Sponsored Session: *Details coming soon!*

2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. | Networking Session

2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. | Breakout Sessions

Something for Everyone: Free and Low-cost PK-12 Resources

Why reinvent the wheel? Explore a wealth of free and low-cost resources, from curriculum supplements to flight opportunities, offered by leading aerospace organizations to make your program and students soar.

Aviation Maintenance: Adding a High School Pathway and Career Opportunities

Pilots aren't the only in-demand professionals; now more than ever, maintenance techs are critical. Learn how to build a high school pathway that introduces students to aviation maintenance careers and training opportunities.

Fundraising and Grants 101: How to Find and Cultivate Financial Support

Programs need fuel, and in education, that fuel is funding. Get practical strategies for finding federal and state grants, CTE funding, and other sources to start or grow your aviation program.

Drone Lab: *Details coming soon!*

Sponsored Session: *Details coming soon!*

3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. | Networking Break

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Exhibit Hall Open

TUESDAY, NOV. 18



7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Registration Open

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. | Breakfast

7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Exhibit Hall Open

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. | Breakout Sessions

All About Scholarships **NEW!**: *Details coming soon!*

Beyond the Flight Deck: Non-Pilot Careers in Aviation

Not everyone who loves aviation has to be a pilot. The industry needs talent in maintenance, manufacturing, medicine, law, computer science, engineering, business, and more. This session will give educators a guided tour of the full spectrum of aviation-related careers and show why, if your students can dream it, chances are it exists somewhere in aviation.

Test Ready: Prepare Students for FAA Written Tests **NEW!**

Help your students ace their FAA written exams with strategies from top ground school providers. Explore study tools, confidence-building methods, and proven approaches to boost pass rates.

Drone Lab: *Details coming soon!*

Sponsored Session: *Details coming soon!*

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. | Networking Break

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. | Breakout Sessions

Getting Students Flying: Programs that Launch Future Pilots

From discovery flights to scholarships and flight training partnerships, this session highlights the most effective programs that help students log real hours and launch their flight training journey from classroom to cockpit.

Navigating the Skies: Aviation Career Pathways at Colleges

Help your students chart their future. Hear from AABI-accredited colleges offering degrees in professional flight, aviation management, maintenance technology, air traffic control (ATC), and unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). Learn how to guide students through post-secondary options and connect them with the right opportunities, including the selection and application process.

Introducing the ACE Middle School Aviation STEM Curriculum

Middle schoolers are ready to dream big. Get an insider's look at the Aerospace Center for Excellence's (ACE) free aviation curriculum designed for grades 6–8, built to plug seamlessly into the AOPA High School curriculum. Meet the curriculum development team and get a look “under the cowling” of this exciting middle school course offering.

Before You Buy: Simulators, AI, VR

Thinking about simulators to enhance your program and motivate students? Learn about some of the most popular platforms, emerging technologies like VR and AI, and practical advice for integrating them into your classroom and bringing aviation concepts to life.

Sponsored Session: *Details coming soon!*

11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. | Networking Break

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Breakout Sessions

Cleared for Takeoff: Building the Future of Aviation

Hear directly from a visionary educator who designed and launched an aviation program and a student who experienced it. This honest, inspiring conversation will share lessons learned, wins, challenges, what it really feels like turning an idea into a thriving education pathway, and how it feels to take flight (literally) as a student. If you dream of launching a program that helps students soar, this session is for you.

Ask Me Anything: Q&A with AOPA Curriculum Teachers **NEW!**

You've absorbed a ton at the Symposium and had a great time. Now it's your turn to ask questions. The AOPA High School team and veteran AOPA curriculum teachers and administrators will answer your questions, share insights, and give you practical advice you can take home.

Check back for added sessions!

12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. | Lunch | Closing General Session | Announcements *(Keynote.info.coming.soon)*

Note: Breakout topics and descriptions are subject to change.