A Love of Aviation (ALOA) Scholarship - An anonymous donor established this scholarship of $250 in 1997. In 2011 two more anonymous donors joined in the scholarship creating a $750 scholarship. This year’s recipient is Brendyn Hewitt of Great Falls. Brendyn is a junior at Great Falls High School and a Captain in the first Air Force JROTC program in the state of Montana. He began flight training at age 16 and is currently working to obtain his private pilot’s license. He hopes to attend the US Air Force Academy and eventually become a commercial pilot. When he is not in school Brendyn also enjoys playing hockey for the Great Falls Americans and volunteering in his local community.

Aviation Organizations of Montana (AOM) Flight Training Scholarship – AOM has established this $500 scholarship to financially assist a student pilot in obtaining their private pilot certificate. This year’s scholarship winner is Craig Sowers of Laurel. Craig is a senior at Laurel High School and has already been accepted to Rocky Mountain College’s Aeronautical Science program. He is an honor roll student, lettered athlete and volunteers for many organizations within his community. Craig is working toward his private pilot’s license and has already completed his cross-country solo flight. After graduation he plans to fly for a major airline and hopes to eventually fly for a cargo carrier.

Bob Redding Memorial Scholarship – EAA Chapter 57 in Billings is offering a scholarship in memory of Bob Redding who was a lifetime advocate of general and experimental aviation. Building aircraft was as important to Bob as flying them and, given his tenure as a college math professor, so was education. This $250 scholarship is offered to those working towards their A&P license, first generation pilot training, or any post-secondary STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) degree. This year’s award goes to Miranda Mireles of Billings. Miranda is a senior at Rocky Mountain College working on an Aeronautical Science degree. She earned a Bachelor’s degree from Carroll College and commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Montana Army National Guard. Miranda’s military career led her to Army Flight School in Fort Rucker, AL and in May of 2014 she returned to Montana as a qualified UH-60 Blackhawk pilot. While she intends to explore aviation career opportunities after graduation, her long term goal is to become pilot for a major airline.

Montana Pilots Association (MPA) Junior Pilot Award - This recipient is chosen for outstanding interest in aviation, citizenship within their community and demonstrated academic achievement. The recipient must be a Montana resident and previously soloed. Preference is given to younger applicants who are new pilots or pursuing a profession in aviation. This $1,000 scholarship is awarded to Tori Gandia of Bozeman. Tori is a student pilot currently pursuing a two year degree in aviation from Gallatin College. She moved from Dublin, Ireland four years ago to obtain an education and follow her lifelong dream of becoming an airline pilot. Though she started at Gallatin College with just 8 hours of flight time she has already earned her private pilot’s license and is working on her Instrument Rating.

Montana Pilots Association (MPA) Air Safety and Education Foundation Scholarship - This $1,000 scholarship is open to an active pilot who has considerable interest in aviation and is seeking advanced flight training or pursuing a profession in aviation. The applicant must be a Montana resident. This year’s recipient is Bailey Stevens of Moore. Bailey is a senior at Moore High School and has been accepted into the aviation program at Treasure Valley Community College in Caldwell, ID. Once finished with college Bailey expects to have her Certified Flight Instructor with Instrument Rating and would like to open her own flight school and charter service. She also hopes to one day fly helicopters for EMS or Fire Fighting.
Montana Antique Aircraft Association (MAAA) A&P Scholarship which is a $1,000 scholarship to help defray the costs of A&P mechanic school. This year’s recipient is Brody Severson of Stevensville. Brody is currently enrolled in Helena College’s two-year aviation maintenance program where he is pursuing his A&P certification. Shortly after his 17th birthday, Brody earned his private pilot’s license and plans to become commercially licensed with multi-engine, taildragger, and float-plane certifications. His future career goals include pursuing a career in Alaska as a pilot/mechanic, missionary aviation, and eventually starting his own flying operation. Brody spends his free time working on his family’s ranch, hiking and working at a ski hill. As a senior project, he organized an aviation camp for 4th - 6th graders with the help from the EAA Chapter 517 who offered Young Eagle flights to all that participated.

Parrott Family Scholarship – The Parrott family offers this $1,000 scholarship to be used over a one-year period for pilot training programs for students enrolled in the Rocky Mountain College (RMC) aviation program. The funds may be used for tuition in the RMC aviation program, and/or flight training expenses leading to a private, commercial, or Flight Instructor Certificate, and may include instrument and multi-engine simulator training, and the purchase of aviation related materials and related supplies. This year’s scholarship goes to Aunaya Martin of Billings. Aunaya is currently enrolled at Rocky Mountain College’s Aeronautical Sciences program with the intent to become a commercial pilot for a major airline. She was involved in the restoration of a 1932 Pietenpol aircraft that was featured in an issue of the EAA Spirit of Aviation magazine and was invited to speak at the international airshow in Oshkosh, WI. Her future plans are to gain test pilot experience and to work for NASA.

Theresa (Nistler) Colley Scholarship – Mountain AirDance Flight Training (Jeanne MacPherson and Bill Gallea) and Vetter Aviation (Brent and Rosie Vetter) offer this $1,000 scholarship in memory of Theresa (Nistler) Colley who passed away from Leukemia (AML) in February, 2012. Theresa loved flying and was working towards her private pilot certificate. This scholarship is awarded to a student pilot who is working on their private pilot rating. This year’s recipient is Eric Smith of Kalispell. Eric is a student just a few months away from earning both his high school diploma and an Associate’s of Science degree. He will continue his education by attending Gallatin College’s Aviation Program this fall. Eric hopes to earn his private pilot’s license this year and eventually his commercial rating. His long-term goal is to become a commercial pilot based in Montana. When he is not in school Eric enjoys competitive swimming, working as a lifeguard and volunteering in his community.

Vigilante Hangar Scholarship – The Vigilante Hangar Flight Instructor Scholarship is available to any instrument rated commercial pilot who is pursuing their initial flight instructor certificate. A thriving general aviation community relies upon the work and dedication of committed certified flight instructors. It is the goal of this scholarship and of the Vigilante Hangar to foster and promote professional flight instruction in Montana. This year’s recipient is Garrett Point of Helena. Garrett has always dreamed of being a pilot and worked through high school to attend flight training and fund his love for model airplanes. Garrett recently graduated Summa Cum Laude from A&P School at Helena College. He has completed his instrument rating and commercial single and multi-engine ratings and is currently working on becoming a certified flight instructor. He plans to soon be a flight instructor and mechanic and looks forward a lifetime in aviation in whatever form it may take. Garrett also is the recipient of the Tyler Orsow and Chuck Kimes Forever Flying Scholarship. This scholarship is a fully-funded seaplane rating to be provided by Backcountry Flying Experience of Bigfork, MT. The scholarship honors the memory of seaplane pilots Tyler Orsow and Chuck Kimes who were lost in a crash of a one-of-a-kind seaplane on a ferry flight in the Mideast in 2011.
Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Missoula Chapter 517 Scholarship – EAA Missoula Chapter 517 provides three scholarships. One for post-solo flight training; one for a second year A&P student; and one to be used for any type of aviation career training.

The $1000 EAA Post-Solo Flight Training Scholarship goes to Wyatt DuCharme of Polson. Wyatt is currently attending the Gallatin College Aviation Program and will soon earn his private pilot’s license. He was a member of the Polson High School LINK crew, a student-run transition aide for high school freshmen. As a freshman in high school, he was selected to play basketball in Europe, an achievement he holds in the highest regard and an experience he will never forget. After college Wyatt hopes to join the Air Force with plans to eventually become a commercial pilot.

The $1500 second year A&P Scholarship goes to Sam Hoffman of Helena. Sam’s love of flying began at the age of 16 when he was hired by a crop-dusting service. In the intervening three years he has obtained his private pilot’s license and is currently working on his tail wheel endorsement while pursuing his education in aviation maintenance at Helena College. He expects to complete his Airframe & Powerplant Certification in the spring of 2018. Once graduated he plans to earn his commercial pilot’s license and work as a crop duster, supplementing this season employment by working as an A&P in the off-season. Sam dreams of one day owning his own operation, both flying and wrenching once he earns his Inspection Authorization.

The $1000 Aviation Career Training Scholarship goes to Trevor Stene of Missoula. Trevor is a flight instructor in Missoula who plans to use his scholarship to earn his multi-engine instructor rating and high altitude endorsement. He joined the Civil Air Patrol in 2015 which allow him some time in a G1000 cockpit. He is also mountain flight qualified mission pilot, instructor pilot and check pilot with the CAP as well as a qualified volunteer search pilot. His current goal is to promote and train safe, proficient pilots who will enjoy the world of aviation as he does. Trevor’s long term plans involve becoming a commercial pilot.

Edwards Jet Center Scholarship – Edwards Jet Center, a full-service fixed base operator and Part 135 charter operator based at Logan International Airport in Billings, offers this $500 scholarship to help defray the costs of flight instruction. This award goes to Jeremy Downs of Missoula. Jeremy is a senior at Rocky Mountain College in Billings majoring in Aeronautical Science with a minor in Unmanned Aerial Systems. Fires near his hometown sparked his passion for flight when he witnessed a slurry bomber dispersing fire retardant as he passed by in his car. Since then he has been pursuing a career as a slurry pilot. Jeremy has his private pilots’ license and instrument rating. He is one flight away from obtaining his commercial license and intends to complete his multi-engine rating by the end of the spring semester. He plans to work as a flight instructor upon graduation and work for a local airline before becoming a professional firefighter pilot.

Montana Antique Aircraft Association (MAAA) Flight Scholarship which is a $1,000 scholarship to help defray the costs of flight instruction. This year’s recipient is Wesley Jessop of Corvallis. Wesley is a commercial helicopter pilot currently studying for his Flight Instructor Rating. He also plans to obtain his Instrument Rating, Instrument Instructor Rating, Longline Endorsement, etc. Already a member of the Corvallis Volunteer Fire Department, Wesley eventually hopes to combine his passion for flying with public service by fighting fires and working in Search and Rescue. When he is not flying or running his own construction business Wesley can be found camping, hiking, hunting and fishing with his wife and young son.