



## TRUCKEE-TAHOE SOARING ASSOCIATION

AT THE TRUCKEE TAHOE AIRPORT

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### AVIATION EDUCATION PROGRAM

#### LINE CREW INTERNSHIP, LETTER TO PARENT OR GUARDIAN 2020

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Aviation demands a paradoxical combination of traits: we must think for ourselves – yet follow the rules. Much of the aviation world operates with surprisingly little oversight, and it can do so only because of ongoing education, regulations to maintain up-to-date piloting abilities, and a rigorous selection process that applies to all but the most casual flying.

Your teenager has made it through the earliest stage of this selection process, and we at Truckee-Tahoe Soaring Association (TTSA) are grateful for the opportunity to help prepare your teen to succeed in the endlessly rewarding, yet often challenging, world of flight. As with nearly every aspect of aviation, this is going to be a team effort, so starting now, you and your teen are going to be part of the team. Please share this letter with your teen, so we all can be on the same page as to what has been developed, is needed, expected, required, and aimed for.

Last season, it was made clear to us there were holes in the aviation education processes. While the flight instruction the teens were getting was generally adequate in nature and scope, we feel the program did not provide enough emphasis on ground safety or on the ground instruction and book learning required by Federal Aviation Regulations and necessary to become a fully qualified pilot. We concluded that program was not properly preparing the teens for future success as professional aviators. Also, at times, the lack of effective communications with parents and Line Crew members regarding expectations and study requirements caused misunderstandings.

These facts troubled the current TTSA leadership, since at the end of a teen's training, to become a certified private glider pilot, he or she must pass two Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) exams, one written and one practical. The teens were not being effectively trained, considering the goal of becoming a licensed glider pilot. Whether or not the teen reaches that goal in one or four seasons is not the point, quality and effective aviation education is. Being a member of the Line Crew will continue to be rewarding, fun, and informative, developing the attitudes and habits necessary to succeed in aviation. The mission of TTSA is, among other things, to "train aspiring pilots."

Therefore, here at TTSA, we are working with a new training program this season. It is based on and adapted from Russell Holtz's trio of glider pilot training manuals, *Glider Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge*, *Flight Training Manual for Gliders*, and *Instructor's Guide*. There are several competing programs available, but the Holtz program is the one best suited to our local conditions. TTSA plans to supply the textbooks for the committed interns at no cost to the family, nor will there be a charge for instruction or flight lessons as they will be scheduled within Line Crew daily operations.

Prior to each lesson, your teen will be assigned a reading assignment. He or she will be required to read both the Holtz manual sections pertaining to that lesson and the sections pertaining to the subsequent lesson. This way, all material will have been read twice, and in the event a lesson goes unusually well, the instructor will be free to jump ahead with your teen's training.

Each chapter of *Glider Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge* has a corresponding quiz. The same is true for *Flight Training Manual for Gliders*. After reading the assigned sections pertaining to each upcoming lesson, and prior to arriving at TTSA for that lesson, your teen will answer the corresponding questions.

This is where you come in. Your responsibility will be to see the reading assignments are done and the quiz questions have been answered. Once these tasks have been completed, you will sign your teen's answer sheet, and send it with your teen to submit to his or her instructor at TTSA.

Once your teen arrives at TTSA, we will administer another short quiz, confirming your teen's understanding of the topics. This quiz, which is not in either manual, will be adapted to better address the unique operating conditions we find here at Truckee: for example, here at Truckee glider pilots have to contend with an operating ATC control tower and high density altitude conditions.

In the event your teen does not complete the required reading or does not answer the quiz questions, he or she will not be allowed to take the flight portion of the lesson at that time. However, it will still be important he or she arrive at the airfield on time as scheduled, because our flight operations depend on the Line Crew's operational support and there is still plenty of learning to be had on the airfield with assistance from seasoned pilots. Your teen will not want to miss being on the airfield. Once the assigned study has been completed, the flight portions of the lessons will resume.

We are confident this form of focused education will benefit not only the student's general aviation knowledge and flight abilities, but safe conduct on the airfield, healthy aviation-related attitudes and habits, and respect for the responsibility of operating as an individual within the rules for the sake of the aviation community at large... and a lot of fun.

## *Mark Montague*

Chief Flight Instructor, TTSA

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Interview: \_\_\_\_\_ General Manager Approval: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_