

Montana Department of Transportation | Aeronautics Division | Vol. 75, No 5 June 2026

2026 Aviation Awareness Art Contest Winners Announced!

Congratulations to the winners of this year's Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Aeronautics Aviation Awareness Art Contest!

MDT Aeronautics programs, such as the art contest, show youth the many opportunities that aeronautics provides in careers, transportation, and the economy. Many past winners of this contest have gone on to find successful careers in aviation. Judges had a difficult time selecting winners from hundreds of entries and truly enjoyed seeing the work of so many talented students interested in aviation.

Category I winners: (K-5th grade)

1st place: H. Barnett of Havre

2nd place: K. Vander Ark of Kalispell

3rd place: L. McKenzie of East Helena

Category II winners: (6th-8th grade)

1st place: A. Christian of Ulm

2nd place: L. Hanson of Billings

3rd place: V. Green of Whitehall

Category III winners: (9th-12th grade)

1st place: S. Hulet of Big Timber

2nd place: E. Benson of Kalispell

3rd place: A. Davis of Helena









You Are Invited: Canyon Ferry Fly-In

Please fly your aircraft to Canyon Ferry on June 20 at 8 a.m. to support the annual Aviation Career Academy (ACE) Academy.

The final day of the camp we host a general aviation fly-in. This is a great opportunity to show off your aircraft and talk to aspiring and interested high school students. Students love to hear how you got started in aviation and your careers in the field. We want you to spend some time with us and talk about your airplanes. We hope for a diverse turnout!

The parking area along the strip will be nicely mowed prior to our fly-in, and the 3,200 ft rolled gravel runway is in good condition. The runway was completely redone this spring by Broadwater County Road Department and the repairs were primarily funded through a grant the county received from the MDT Aeronautics Board.

Please RSVP if you plan on flying in at mdtad@mt.gov or 406-444-2506.

Organizational Changes at MDT Aeronautics Program

After a detailed review of operational needs and alignment within the department, the Aeronautics Division will transition to the Aeronautics Program. This change reflects MDT's ongoing efforts to ensure consistency and clarity across all organizational units.

This transition is important because it:

- Aligns our organizational structure with the scale and function of Aeronautics work.
- Maintains and protects the delivery of services that aviation users rely on.
- Creates flexibility to support future growth and evolving needs.
- Enhances operational efficiency across program areas.



Under the new structure, the Aeronautics Program Manager will oversee three sections:

- Safety, Education & Registration Section.
- Airports, Airways & Grants Section.
- Yellowstone Airport Proprietary Program Section.

Each section reports directly to the Aeronautics Program Manager, creating a clearer and more streamlined reporting structure. This alignment is intended to strengthen coordination, reinforce program oversight, and support the continued delivery of high quality services to the aviation community and the public.

It is important to note that there will be no changes to services provided and offered by MDT Aeronautics.

Connecting a Big Sky State

Aviation has always punched above its weight in Montana, but new data from the 2026 MDT Aeronautics Economic Impact Study of 75 of 125 of Montana's Airports shows just how central it has become to life and business under the Big Sky. An estimated $6.5 billion in total economic output and more than 39,000 jobs, reach into every corner of the state.

That impact is easy to feel on the ground. At one end of the system, commercial service hubs like Bozeman are handling record traffic as visitors and residents move through the state in greater numbers than ever before. Bozeman alone is projected to serve about 2.9 million passengers in 2026 and generates roughly $2.2 billion in annual economic activity, accounting for about one third of all aviation jobs and output statewide. At the other end, small community and backcountry airstrips quietly enable wildfire response, search and rescue, medical transport, flight training, recreation, and access to communities that may be hours from the nearest interstate.

The numbers only tell part of the story. Aviation is how a rancher in eastern Montana gets to a specialist in Billings in a single morning, how tourists reach Glacier and Yellowstone for their first look at Montana's mountains, and how firefighters, mechanics, line service techs, and air traffic professionals build careers without leaving their home state. As we head into another busy summer season, every takeoff from the heaviest airliner to the lightest ultralight taildragger is a reminder that Montana's airports aren't just pieces of infrastructure; they are the front doors to our communities and a vital network that keeps this wide open state connected.

Attention Airport Sponsors

As a friendly reminder, airport sponsors who were previously awarded a loan or grant from MDT Aeronautics are required to complete a status update or project closeout form each year. To be eligible to apply for additional funding in the future, the closeout form or status update must be completed first.

The loan and grant application period opens on July 1 and will close on November 15, 2026.

For assistance or questions, please contact Stephen Torske at 406-444-9581 or storske@mt.gov.

For more information on the loans and grants program go to https://mdt.mt.gov/aviation/loans-grants.aspx or scan the QR Code



Scobey Border Strip

In May, MDT Aeronautics staff filled gopher holes, mitigated weeds and rodents, changed the windsock, and performed other routine maintenance at the Scobey Border Station airstrip (8U3). Shovels, buckets, and a stiff prairie breeze were the theme of the day.

This airport is one of three (all three are managed by MDT Aeronautics) general aviation airports located on the US/Canada border in Montana.

For more information about transitioning to or from Canada and crossing restrictions, please contact:

U.S. Customs at 406-783-5375

Canadian Customs at 306-267-2177.

Please Consider an Electronic Newsletter

If you currently receive the newsletter by mail, please consider opting-in to receive the e-newsletter by email every month.

To sign up for the e-newsletter, please email us at mdtad@mt.gov or give us a call at 406-444-2506.

Benefits of an e-newsletter:

- Faster delivery.
- Easily shareable.
- Viewable on phone, tablet, or computer.
- Saves resources by reducing paper waste!

Thank you to those who have already opted to receive the e-newsletter!

Calander of Events

June 5 - Del Bonita Work Session. Back-up date June 16. Start at 10 a.m. For more information contact, Stephen Torske at storske@mt.gov.

June 13 - Butte Wings and Wheels Fly-in or Drive-in. 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Pancake breakfast, fly-in, car show and off road rigs. Vendors, exhibitors and more! This year celebrating the 85th anniversary of Jeep along with the 250th anniversary of the United States. Search 'Butte Wings & Wheels 2026' on Facebook for further information or contact Walt McIntosh at 406-670-1846.

June 13 - Townsend Fly-In. Sponsored by the Broadwater County Airport Board. Breakfast served for a fee with proceeds going to the local 4H club. A chicken wings lunch wil be available for a fee with proceeds going to the local Science, Technology, Outdoors, Knowledge, and Entrepreneurship (STOKE) program. For more information, contact Jess Lancello at 406-860-5355 or jessarnold@hotmail.com or Dwight Thompson at 406-220-0736.

June 13 - Spotted Bear Work Party. Cancelled.

June 20 - Geraldine Fly-In. 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. In conjunction with Geraldine Fun Day. Lots of activities downtown. There will be a fireman's breakfast at the fire station downtown (Check courtesy car availability.) For more Fly-In information, contact Butch Hankins at 406-737-4244. For information on Geraldine Fun Day, go to geraldineac.com.

June 20 - Meadow Creek Work Party. For more information, contact Scott Newpower at 406-670-3169 or snewpower@theraf.org.

June 20 - Big Timber Fly-In and Car Show. Breakfast starts at 7 a. m. followed by a pig roast lunch starting at 10 a.m. Breakfast and lunch are free. Donations accepted. For more information, contact Kirk Bryan at 406-930-1780.

June 20 - Canyon Ferry Fly-In. 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Please fly your aircraft into Canyon Ferry to support the annual ACE Academy! This is a great opportunity to show off your aircraft and talk to high school students interested in aviation. Students love to hear how you got started in aviation and about your careers in the field. Please RSVP to Barbara Barnum at bbarnum@mt.gov.

June 26 - 28- Fly-In. Annual Missouri Breaks Fly-In. The Fly-In starts Friday, June 26 with arrivals in Winifred. Fly out to Missouri Breaks strips, then dinner in Winifred's hangar. Saturday June 27, fly to the Breaks followed by dinner in Winifred. Breakfast in Winifred Sunday, June 28. For more information, contact Ralph Rogers at 406-350-5487.

June 27 - Choteau Fly-In. 6:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Free breakfast starting at 6:30 a.m., donations welcome. Young Eagles airplane rides available. For more information, contact Scott Gasvoda at 406-590-2836 or Ben Hodgkiss at 406-737-4244.

July 4 - Plains Fly-in and Paradise Rural Fire Department Pancake Breakfast. Plains Airport. 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Ride an antique fire truck shuttle to the breakfast held at the fire station next door. For more information, contact Randy Garrison at 406-370-6179.

July 11 - 12 - Saint Ignatius Fly-In. Saturday, July 11, 4 to 8 p.m., free BBQ with all the fixin's. Sunday, July 12, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., free huckleberry pancake breakfast, 100 gallon avgas giveaway, many door prizes. Helicopter rides both days. For more information, contact Michael Kuefler 406-544-2274.

July 17 - Polson Fly-In and Re-Opening Barbeque. Join us for burgers and hot dogs and take a look at the new Polson airport. Barbeque starts at 4 p.m. For more information, contact Willie Stene at will@steneaviation.com.

July 18 - EAA Chapter 344 Young Eagles Flight Rally. Helena. Montana EAA Chapter 344 will be hosting a free Young Eagles Flight Rally for youths ages 8 to 17 from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the MDT Aeronautics building (2630 Airport Road). On-line preregistration (required) go to eaa.org/eaa/youth/free-ye-flights or contact Dave Lehman, Young Eagles Coordinator at YEchapter344@earthlink.net.

July 18 - Schafer Meadows Work Party. For more information, contact Scott Newpower at 406-670-3169 or snewpower@theraf.org.

July 23 - 26 - Big Sky Balloon Rally, Billings. For event information go to, bigskyballoonrally.com.

July 31 - August 1 - Three Forks Fly-in. Friday, July 31, 2026, 12 p.m. until Saturday, August 1, 8 p.m. 2 day fly-in starting Friday evening with a potluck dinner get together. Saturday flour bombing and spot landing contests and a ping pong ball drop for the kids. Breakfast served on Saturday morning and free hot dogs for lunch. Dinner served Saturday night. For more information, contact Bob Green at 406-539-1880 or 406-539-7830.

August 8 - EAA Chapter 344 Young Eagles Flight Rally. Helena. Montana EAA Chapter 344 will be hosting a free Young Eagles Flight Rally for youths ages 8 to 17 from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. On-line preregistration (required) go to eaa.org/eaa/youth/free-ye-flights or contact Dave Lehman, Young Eagles Coordinator at YEchapter344@earthlink.net.

August 9 - Hysham Fly-In. Breakfast available for a small donation 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. For more information, contact Ruth Baue at 406-342-5328.

August 15 - MPA Central Montana Fly-In, Lewistown. 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. Hosted by the MPA Central Montana Hangar. We will be serving scrambled eggs, sausage and Jeff and Stacy Martinez's world famous, cinnamon chip pancakes! For more information, contact Pete Smith at 406-366-1435 or pete180@gmail.com.

August 29 - Harlowton Fly-In. 6:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Hosted by the the 44 Flyers. Breakfast is free, donations accepted. For more information contact Jason Loose at 406-350-0422.

September 19 - EAA Chapter 344 Young Eagles Flight Rally. Helena. Montana EAA Chapter 344 will be hosting a free Young Eagles Flight Rally for youths ages 8 to 17 from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the MDT Aeronautics building (2630 Airport Road). On-line preregistration (required) go to eaa.org/eaa/youth/free-ye-flights or contact Dave Lehman, Young Eagles Coordinator at YEchapter344@earthlink.net.

September 19 - Lincoln Fly-In. The Lincoln Airport Foundation will be hosting a pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. For more information, contact Doug Vulcan at 406-362-4473 or vulcandg406@gmail.com.

June 2026

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Aeronautics Division

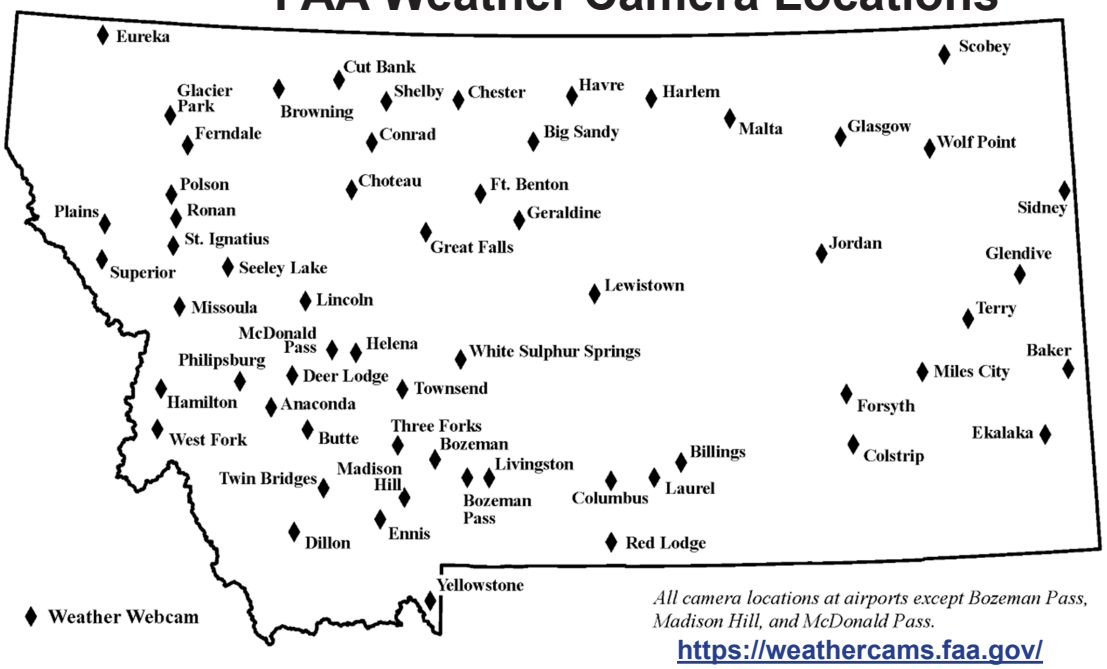
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FAA Weather Camera Locations



All camera locations at airports except Bozeman Pass, Madison Hill, and McDonald Pass.

https://weathercams.faa.gov/

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