

Montana Department of Transportation | Aeronautics Program | Vol. 77, No 11 November 2026

2026 Aviation Teachers Workshop: Educating the Educators

This past September, the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), in partnership with the Montana Learning Center (MLC), hosted the Aviation Teachers Workshop in Helena. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) teachers from across Montana came to the workshop to learn new aviation experiments based on lift, thrust, drag and weight to take home to their students. Teachers were given introductory flights to kick off the event and were given the opportunity to take a turn in the pilots seat and try their hand at flying. After their flights, tours of Helena College's airport campus, Boeing, the Army National Guard facility, and the Air Traffic Control tower were given providing them with insight into what educational and career paths are possible for their students in the aviation world.

Teachers took turns virtually flying on MLC's flight simulator with the help of MLC's Chris Gillette. Several teachers were able to experience successful simulated landings thanks to Chris's expert guidance.

On the last day, a final experiment was done testing all the learned principals at the workshop. Teams competed for the fastest times in their experiment. Team 'Rocketts' won hands down and took away a prize to use for future lessons in their classrooms.

Thank you to the MLC and all the businesses who participated in the workshop and volunteered their time. We could not do it with out your support!

























Upcoming Events for 2027

Register early and save!

2027 Montana Aviation Conference
Registration is Open!

The Aviation Organizations of Montana (AOM) is pleased to announce the 42nd Montana Aviation Conference. The conference will be held in Missoula February 25-27, at the Hilton Garden Inn. The conference offers three days of speakers, seminars, workshops, awards ceremonies, business meetings, comradery, and social events. It is an opportunity for those from the aviation community to connect, learn, and exchange ideas and information. Around 500 participants are expected this year.

If you are interested in saving money on registration fees, check out the "take off to landing" package on the registration website and register by January 31, 2027!

Lodging is available at a special rate by calling the Hilton Garden Inn, 406-532-5300.

Mention the Montana Aviation Conference for discounted room rates. Hotel room reservations must be made before January 1, 2027, to receive the event rate.

The IA seminar will only be offered on Friday, February 26, from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

To register, visit:
site.pheedloop.com/event/mtavcon/home
or scan the QR Code.

Register now!

Montana Aircraft Mechanic Refresher & IA Renewal Seminar

The MDT Aeronautics Program is offering its Mechanic Refresher and Inspection Authorization (IA) Renewal Seminar concurrently with the 2027 Montana Aviation Conference in Missoula. 9 approved hours of training will be offered this year on **Friday only** from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Any combination of topics offered will meet the required 8-hour minimum for IA renewal.

Conference registration is required to attend the IA renewal seminar. See top of page for registration details.

Note: You do not need to be an A&P or an IA to attend and learn!

For more information regarding Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Inspection Authorization renewal requirements and forms, visit: faa.gov/about/office_org/field_offices/fsdo/hln

Note: The FAA's preferred method for submitting IA renewals is via the Integrated Certification and Rating Application (IACRA) website. To register for an account, go to: iacra.faa.gov

2027 Winter Survival Clinic

January 8 - 10

At the Sugarloaf Lodge near Anaconda

$75 registration fee.

For more details and to register, scan the QR Code.



2027 FIRC

February 5 - 6

Location in Helena to be determined

$75 registration fee.
($25 discount for current registered Montana Pilots)

For more details and to register, scan the QR Code.



Aviation Awareness Art Contest

Win a flight around your hometown!

- *Submissions accepted now until April 10, 2027.*
- *Open to all students grades K through 12.*
- *Artwork must be Aviation in Montana themed.*

For more details, scan the QR Code to dowload the flyer.



For more event information, contact MDT Aeronautics at mdtad@mt.gov or 406-444-2506.

Deadline Reminders

2027 Aviation Scholarships Due By November 13

How to Apply

Scan the QR Code below or go to mdt.mt.gov/aviation/scholarships.aspx or instructions on how to apply for the 2027 Montana Aviation Scholarships.

Requirements:

- You must be a Montana resident to apply.
- All applications must be submitted online.
- Emailed or mailed applications will *not* be accepted.
- Candidates must submit a separate application for each individual scholarship name. Tailoring each application to the specific scholarship you are applying for is highly recommended.
- The Montana Ninety-Nines scholarships are reimbursement awards only. You must provide them with your eligible receipts for up to the dollar amount you were awarded within 12 months.
- Additional opportunities might become available. Please check our website for the most up-to-date list of scholarships.
- Scholarship applications must be submitted on or before 11:59 p.m. MST, November 13, 2026.

Loan and Grants applications Due November 14

To access the on-line portal go to: mdt.mt.gov/aviation/loans-grants.shtml or scan the QR Code

If you have any questions or need assistance with the loan and grant program, please contact: Stephen Torske at 406-444-9569 or storske@mt.gov.

Aircraft and Pilot Registration Notices Being Mailed

Heads up aircraft owners! Aircraft and Pilot registration notices will be mailed the first week of December. Keep an eye out for them in your mailbox or check with your registered agent for your notice.
If you would like to pay your 2027 aircraft registration before you recieve your invoice, feel free to give us a call at 406-444-2506.

**Be sure to pay your yearly aircraft registration fee by March 1, 2027 to avoid the late fees.*

Ways to pay

- You can use the access code listed on your invoice to pay on-line at **app.mt.gov/aeronautics/registration/Contact/Lookup**
- Mail us a check along with your invoice, notate the tail number on the check and mail to:
  MDT Aeronautics
  P.O. Box 200507
  Helena, MT 59620
- Or, give us a call at 406-444-2506, and we can assist you over the phone with your payment.

Calendar of Events

November 14 - Loan and Grant Application Deadline. For more information, contact Stephen Torske at 406-444-2506 or storske@mt.gov. To access the online portal, go to mdt.mt.gov/aviation/loans-grants.shtml.

December 1 - 2027 Aircraft and Pilot registrations open. Go to app.mt.gov/aeronautics/registration/Contact/Lookup and use the access code listed on your mailed invoice to register for 2027. Deadline is March 1st! First registration notices are mailed by December 1st. Check your mailboxes for your invoices.

January 8-10 - Winter Survival Clinic. Sugarloaf Lodge, Anaconda. For more information, contact MDT Aeronautics at mdtad@mt.gov or 406-444-2506.

February 5-6 - Flight Instructor Refresher Course (FIRC). Helena. For details or to register, go to aviationseminars.com/registration-form/?type=firc&course_id=2027106.

February 25-27 - 42nd Montana Aviation Conference. Missoula. Hilton Garden Inn. For more information, contact MDT Aeronautics at mdtad@mt.gov or 406-444-2506.

March 1st - Aircraft Registration Deadline. If you have not received your registration notice, please contact MDT Aeronautics *before* the registration deadline for assistance to avoid late fees.

April 1 - Aviation Art Contest Submission Deadline. To view event details and flyer, go to mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.aspx. For more information, contact Barbara Barnum at 406-444-2506 or bbarnum@mt.gov.

June 5 - Big Timber Fly-In and Car Show. Breakfast starts at 7 a. m. followed by a pig roast lunch at 10 a.m. Breakfast and lunch are free. Donations accepted. For more information, contact Kirk Bryan at 406-930-1780.

MONTANA
Department of Transportation

November 2026

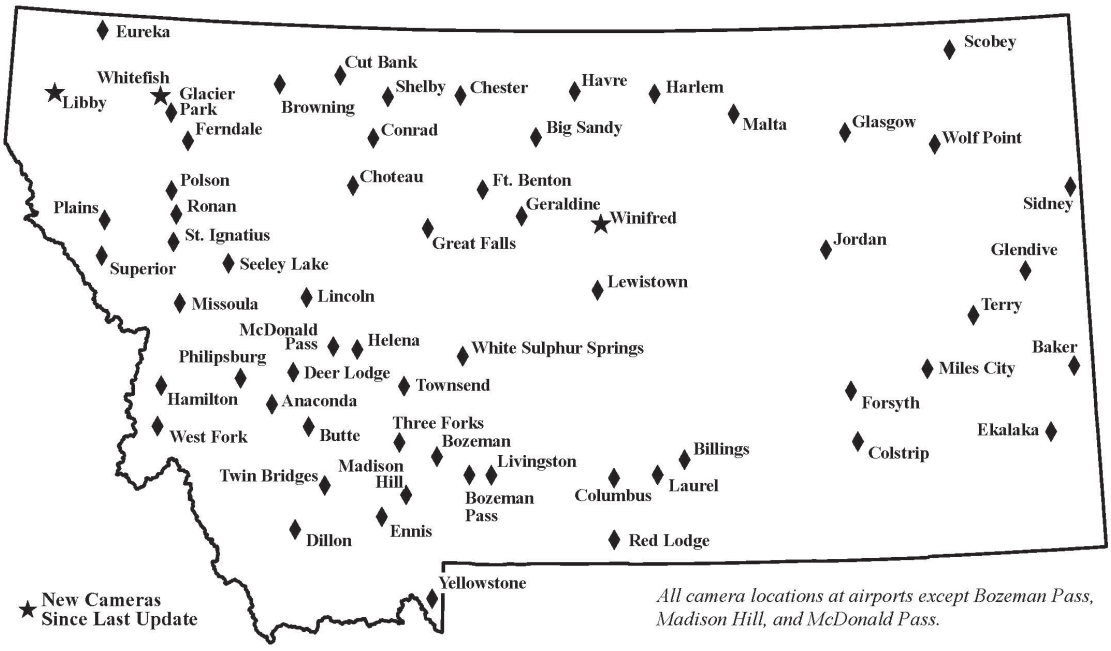
MDT Aeronautics Program
P.O. Box 200507
2630 Airport Road
Helena, MT 59620-0507

Thank you for reading Montana and the Sky.
Fly Safe!

To manage your Montana and the Sky newsletter subscription preferences or to sign-up for the e-newsletter please email mdtad@mt.gov or call 406-444-2506.

FAA Weather Camera Locations

weathercams.faa.gov



To request an alternative accessible format of this document, please contact MDT's ADA Coordinator at 406-444-5416, Montana Relay Service at 711, or by email at mdtaccessibilityrequest@mt.gov.

This document is printed at state expense. Information on the cost of producing this publication may be obtained by contacting the Department of Administration.