

General Aviation Awards Evaluation Guidelines

Flight Instructor of the Year

Certificated Flight Instructors (CFIs) are not only individuals who teach flying, but equally important, they affect aviation safety by shaping the good safety habits of pilots. CFIs strengthen general aviation (GA) as an industry by acting as positive role models and promoting good citizenship among their clients. CFI of the year must actively promote aviation safety and possess professional knowledge; develop a good reputation in the aviation community; exhibit leadership qualities; hold current pilot and flight instructor certificates.

The Flight Instructor of the Year must have a positive, professional working relationship with FAA personnel. The CFI often serves as liaison between local pilots and the FSDO. The CFI may also be an FAA Designated Pilot Examiner (DPE) and/or a FAAS Team Rep. Significantly more weight should be given to activities and letters of reference that demonstrate these positive working relationships.

The Flight Instructor of the Year **MUST** be actively working as a flight instructor.

- Hours of Dual-Given preferred over high Total Hours in a logbook. We define an “active CFI” as having accumulated about 100 hours of dual given in the past year. Part-time CFIs can qualify. High scores to an FAA Gold Seal Instructor, particularly a Gold Seal earned in the previous three years.
- A CFI gives FAA authorizations by means of required endorsements. Senior instructors, 141 Check Instructors and 142 Evaluators are active CFIs, but they do not log a high volume of “dual given” hours. Value Endorsements as highly as dual-given hours. We define an “active CFI” as having given about 50 endorsements in the past year. As examples:
 - WINGS endorsements
 - Student pilot endorsements
 - Sport pilot endorsements
 - Endorsements to take/retake FAA flight and ground exams.
 - Flight review and instrument proficiency (IPC) checks
 - High performance, complex, high altitude, and tailwheel endorsements
 - Spin endorsements
 - Endorsements for completing 141 Progress Checks or 142 Evaluations
 - Endorsements required for other FAA pilot privileges. (examples: banner tow, Air Taxi (135) and Weather Modification)
 - Endorsements for pilot checks required by other government aviation agencies (Civil Air Patrol and Coast Guard Auxiliary, etc.)

The Flight Instructor of the Year **MUST** be dedicated to aviation safety and support the largest GA safety initiative with activities like those of a FAAS Team Representative. High scores should go to activities completed in the past three years including:

- Conducting/participating in safety activities in their organizations and at their airport.
- Hosting and/or participating in local safety seminars.

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- Participating in local or federal safety committees.
- Providing information and guidance on local flying conditions to transient pilots
- Aiding in the dissemination of changes to Federal Aviation Regulations, Airworthiness Directives, safety bulletins, malfunction and defect reports, and/or operational procedures.
- Providing individual remedial training and/or counseling on behalf of the FAA.
- Identifying hazards or unsafe conditions regarding airmen, aircraft, airports, the national airspace system and make recommendations.
- Distributing educational materials, publicizing program events, and rendering other broad support services to safety initiatives.

Because a CFI should be a valuable resource to the community, and because aviation is a dynamic and changing industry, the Flight Instructor of the Year MUST complete advanced training, certifications, or college coursework. Higher scores to those who hold a Master Instructor and other industry-specific accreditations. Your highest scores should be awarded for activities completed in the past three years. Examples of such training are:

- Any aviation training or education that refreshes or increases airman or instructional knowledge and skills, but that does NOT include instructor-certificate renewals. (Since all current CFIs are required to participate in such renewals)
- FAA, DPE, or FAAS Team Representative recurrent training, etc.
- Authorizations or accreditations as an equipment manufacture authorized instructor such as Cessna, Cirrus, MMOPA, Bonanza Society, and so on.
- Involvement—not just membership—in an aviation professional organization such as SAFE, NAFI, EAA, AOPA, and others.

A flight instructor renews their certificate every 24 months, by one of three methods: FIRC, practical exam or activity. Each renewal method has its benefits. Your highest score should be awarded for a diverse renewal system; that is, when an experienced nominee purposely uses more than one renewal method.

The Flight Instructor of the Year MUST be a leader and an entrepreneur, providing service to the aviation community. Your highest scores should be awarded for valuable activities completed in the past three years such as:

- Mentoring other CFIs
- Publishing newsletter / newspaper / magazine articles and books etc
- Producing aviation-oriented A/V educational materials (PowerPoints, CDs, DVDs)
- Producing various aviation-oriented teaching materials
- Producing aviation-oriented Internet materials (websites, online courses, etc)
- Active in Civil Air Patrol (CAP), Scouts, Angel Flight, Air Lifeline, etc
- Servings on aviation/airport boards, committees, and councils, etc

In the end, a Flight Instructor of the Year MUST be a uniquely qualified professional that you are proud to hold up as an example for other flight instructors to emulate.