

General Aviation Awards

Aviation Maintenance Technician of the Year Award

Award Criteria & Judging Guidelines

Role of the Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT)

Aviation Maintenance Technicians (AMTs) are essential to aviation safety. They not only inspect and repair aircraft, but also serve as mentors, educators, and leaders within the aviation community. Through their professionalism and outreach, AMTs strengthen general aviation by acting as role models, promoting good citizenship, and ensuring the highest standards of safety.

Mandatory Qualifications

Nominees for Aviation Maintenance Technician of the Year **must** meet the following:

- Hold a current Airframe and Powerplant Certificate with Inspection Authorization (A&P/IA).
 - Be actively engaged in aviation maintenance, as defined by FAA Order 8900.1, Volume 5, Chapter 5, Section 7. This includes inspection, overhaul, repair, preservation, or replacement of aircraft parts—or direct supervision of these activities.
 - Maintain a positive professional relationship with FAA personnel, especially the Principal Maintenance Inspector (PMI). Judges should give strong weight to nominations supported by letters from FAA representatives.
-

Professional Standards

The AMT of the Year must:

- Promote aviation safety and regulatory compliance.
 - Demonstrate extensive knowledge of FAA maintenance regulations, acceptable methods, techniques, and practices.
 - Exhibit leadership qualities, professional conduct, and the ability to coordinate well with others.
 - Be held to high ethical standards, serving as a professional example for peers and the aviation community.
-

Advanced Training & Professional Development

Judges should award high scores for **training, certifications, and professional involvement** completed in the past three years, including:

- Manufacturer training, authorizations, and seminars.
- FAA WINGS credits, AMT Awards, FAASafety.gov courses, and other continuing education.

- Active involvement in aviation organizations such as PAMA, AMTSociety, EAA, AOPA, and others.
 - Participation in professional meetings, workshops, air shows, trade shows, and symposiums.
 - Additional aviation credentials (pilot certificates, FCC ratings, avionics certifications, FAASTeam training, etc.).
-

Outreach & Safety Contributions

The **most important attribute** of the AMT of the Year is outreach—the sharing of safety and maintenance knowledge with others. Judges should prioritize activities within the past three years, such as:

- Conducting or participating in local maintenance-safety programs.
 - Hosting or presenting at FAASTeam or community safety seminars.
 - Sharing technical expertise with pilot/owner groups.
 - Serving on safety committees at the local, regional, or federal level.
 - Disseminating regulatory changes, ADs, service bulletins, or safety recommendations.
 - Identifying hazards or unsafe conditions and promoting corrective action.
-

Leadership & Service to the Aviation Community

High scores should also be awarded for activities that demonstrate **leadership, mentorship, and long-term service**, such as:

- Teaching or mentoring junior AMTs and AMT students.
 - Holding leadership roles in aviation associations or owner's groups (e.g., Cessna Owners Group, MMOPA, Bonanza Society).
 - Recommending or developing improved maintenance practices.
 - Designing specialized tools, inspection methods, or equipment.
 - Publishing aviation maintenance materials (articles, books, newsletters).
 - Creating educational content (PowerPoints, videos, online courses, or websites).
 - Serving on aviation boards, councils, or airport committees.
-

Final Considerations for Judges

When evaluating a nominee, ask yourself:

- If you were an aviation employer, would you hire this nominee?
- If you were an aircraft owner, would you trust them to maintain your aircraft?
- If a family member or close friend asked for a recommendation, would you recommend this nominee without hesitation?

The Aviation Maintenance Technician of the Year should be a **uniquely qualified professional**; a leader whose example elevates the entire aviation community.