**HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL**

1 September 2022

Parents/Guardians of AFJROTC Flight Academy Candidates,

 Your son/daughter has expressed interest in applying for an AFJROTC Flight Academy Scholarship. According to industry and military leadership, the nation is facing a pilot shortage “crisis” and AFJROTC has stepped up to the plate to give deserving cadets the opportunity to get their foot in the door…in a BIG way. AFJROTC is looking for high-performing cadets selected cadets to attend a flight training program at eleven partnering universities across the U.S. This $20,000+ scholarship give an opportunity for AFJROTC cadets to earn their private pilot’s license, while earning approximately 6 college credits over an 8 week period during summer break. AZ-862 cadets have been very successful in earning this scholarship – we’ve had cadets selected every year since the program began in 2018! This year, AFJROTC is again offering the program and will select 300 cadets worldwide who have a keen interest in pursuing a career in aviation. The entire program - travel, tuition, room and board, flight equipment, and flight training - is at no cost to the cadet.

 Based on your cadet's motivation, performance in AFJROTC, and academic standing, I am proud to nominate them for the summer 2023 scholarship.

 Please review the attached scholarship information memo and application instructions in detail. Test requirements associated with the application have an intermediate deadline and I cannot schedule cadets for the test until they apply, so it is imperative cadets do not delay completing the online application.

 The success of this program has spread like wildfire among the 850+ AFJROTC units worldwide. As a result, this year's selections will be VERY competitive. **NOTE: Our last day of school is 25 May 2023 and our first day back is 19 July 2023.** The flight academy program runs for 8 full weeks so it is very likely our selected cadets will miss a few of the first days of school in July. This has been the case every year AZ-862 has participated and we’ve successfully worked with the HQ to place them at the university with the most favorable schedule and with the school district to allow the cadets to not be assessed absences while they complete flight training. Please contact me with concerns.

 In addition to the application, your cadet will be required to complete an Aviation Qualification Test (AQT) when we return from fall break. This test is comprised of 5 sub-tests, which include 1) math, 2) table reading, 3) aviation information, 4) instrument comprehension, and 5) weight perception, and will be administered (by me) here at the school. The test is modeled after the Air Force Officer Qualifying Test and it is a large factor in selection, therefore I highly recommend cadets seek out AFOQT prep guides and use them. Please have your cadet contact to me as soon as practical so I can schedule him/her for the AQT.

 I can answer FAA (and military) medical qualification questions anytime, but the requirement for an FAA physical will not be imposed until after scholarship selections are made. Please remember, there is NO military commitment associated with this scholarship and FAA medical standards are not quite as strict as those applied in military aviation.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you have questions regarding this amazing opportunity.

Gregory C. Franklin

Gregory C. Franklin, Lieutenant Colonel, US Air Force (Ret)

Senior Aerospace Science Instructor

Hamilton High School, 3700 S Arizona Ave, Chandler, AZ 85248

(480) 883-5207, E-mail: franklin.gregory@cusd80.com

**Chief of Staff of the Air Force Private Pilot Scholarship Program**

**"AFJROTC FLIGHT ACADEMY"**

**PROGRAM INFORMATION FOR CADETS, PARENTS, GUARDIANS**

**1. BACKGROUND/OVERVIEW:** The Air Force is funding 300 scholarships for AFJROTC cadets to attend private pilot training at public/private universities during the summer of 2023. Selected cadets will be identified through a competitive boarding process. The scholarship will pay for round-trip airfare, room and board, collegiate academics, and flight hours required to potentially earn a Private Pilot’s Certificate (PPC) through an in-residence collegiate program that is approximately eight (8) weeks in length.

Each university hosting students is an independent organization and provides its own management and oversight for students and programs. Cadets will be engaged in an intensive academic, flying training program and may have classes or flying training during weekend hours. Completion of the PPC is singularly dependent on each student’s academic and flying ability and the university’s determination and judgment to recommend a student.

**2. WHO MAY APPLY:**  Applicants must be current sophomore, junior, or senior AFJROTC cadets who understand they are volunteering for a scholarship to a public/ private university. There is no military service commitment or obligation, nor does program completion justify acceptance to military service, ROTC scholarship, or military academy appointment. Applicants must be at least **17 years old by 31 July 2023**, obtain a minimum fitness assessment (PFA) score of **50**, and have a minimum cumulative **GPA of 3.0** or better (on a 4.0 scale) to be nominated. Cadets who currently are not meeting the physical fitness requirement will be given an opportunity to improve their PFA score in late October (see SASI with questions). Students must maintain GPA requirements to ensure admission to partner universities. Lastly, applicants must have a “strong” interest in aviation and a “never-quit” attitude.

**3. APPLICATION PROCESS**: Cadets must complete an online application (via the cadet management program "WINGS") and have parental/legal guardian signed approval. The SASI has provided specific application instructions for cadets and parents/guardians via email. Each cadet applicant will take the Aviation Qualification Test (AQT), which will be administered by the SASI in October (after fall break). In addition to information provided in the attached AQT information Pamphlet, the SASI will provide cadets tips on preparing for the test.

**4. SELECTION BOARD:** The selection process will be a quantitative board based on application answers and official endorsements. An applicant’s score will be comprised of five (5) parts: the AQT, endorsements, physical fitness, extracurricular and aviation experiences. These five parts will be weighted to comprise an overall score based on a 100-point scale. Weighting is as follows: AQT = 45% endorsements are weighted at 25%, and 10% each for all others. SASIs/ASIs must verify all information to ensure cadets are preparing accurate packages. Failure to do so could negatively impact your cadet(s). Sophomores, juniors, and seniors will be selected based on program needs and university requirements.

**5. I WAS SELECTED, NOW WHAT:** Select/Alternate cadets will be notified with additional instructions. These cadets must obtain a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Student Pilot Certificate and a FAA Class I Flight Physical within the prescribed dates. A verified passing physical is required before your cadet can be matched to a university. All **non-US citizen** selectees will also have to submit an application through the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Flight Training Security Program (FTSP) in order to continue the process. Non-citizen cadets should contact the SASI for assistance. AFJROTC will cover the costs of the physicals and FTSP application (if necessary).

a. HQ AFJROTC will fund cadet transportation to and from the host university at the start and completion of the program. Funding is not available for any other travel needs (i.e. private auto).

b. EXPECTATIONS FOR SELECTED CADETS: Cadets will be required to meet additional university admission requirements in order to be awarded a scholarship. While on scholarship, cadets will be expected to represent AFJROTC in a positive manner. Cadets will be required to adhere to appearance and grooming standards (regardless of grade status). Failure to positively represent AFJROTC or adhere to university policies may result in the student being sent home.

**FAQ:**

**1. My cadet will not be 17 years old by 31 July 2023, why can't she apply?** The FAA requires student pilots to be 17 years old receive a PPC. Unfortunately, flight schedules do not have the flexibility to be changed waiting for a birthday, so even if she's close, she won't qualify this year. The good news is that she should be eligible to apply as a junior/senior.

**2.** **My cadet has less than 20/20 eyesight. Will he qualify medically?** Perfect uncorrected vision is not required for an FAA Class 1 medical certificate. Certainly, there are medical requirements and restrictions pertaining to certain conditions/medications/etc. but they are likely not as stringent as you think. A good resource is the "FAA Guide for Medical Examiners" which can be found at: <https://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/avs/offices/aam/ame/guide/standards/>

Please note: Although the FAA requires only a Class 3 medical certificate for private pilots, AFJROTC requires flight scholarship recipients to have a Class 1 medical certificate.

BOTTOM LINE: Unless you know your cadet is not medically qualified, APPLY. If selected, AFJROTC will pay for a Class 1 medical examination to determine medical qualification.

**3. What out-of-pocket expenses will we incur if our cadet is selected?**  NONE. Of course, your cadet will likely need some spending money while away for 8 weeks, but that should be minimal as the program is very fast-paced and there will not be a lot of free time.

**4. Will my cadet be required to join the military if she accepts the scholarship?** NO. There is no military commitment associated with this scholarship. Recipients are expected to remain in AFJROTC, but there is no military commitment associated with AFJROTC either.

**5. If my cadet wants to join the military, will this scholarship make my cadet more competitive to fly as a military pilot?** Yes…BUT only if your cadet is an excellent military officer candidate first. There may even be AFROTC scholarship opportunities. Please discuss this with the SASI for more details.

**6. My cadet does not get out of school until 25 May 2023 and returns to school on 19 July 2023, that's a little less than 8 weeks. Will the scholarship program fit inside these dates?** Probably not, but very close. Start/end dates vary slightly at each of the host universities. AFJROTC will do its best to place our cadets at host schools where flying training begins after 25 May and ends as close to 19 July as possible. For example: In 2022, our flight academy cadet started the week after school ended and graduated the week after school started which means he missed the first 5 days of school. We coordinated with HHS administration for "delayed enrollment" to avoid 5 excused absences and with their teachers to ensure they were afforded the opportunity to make up missed work. Seniors who have enrolled in the fall semester at a college/university should have no problem, as most schools start in mid-late August.