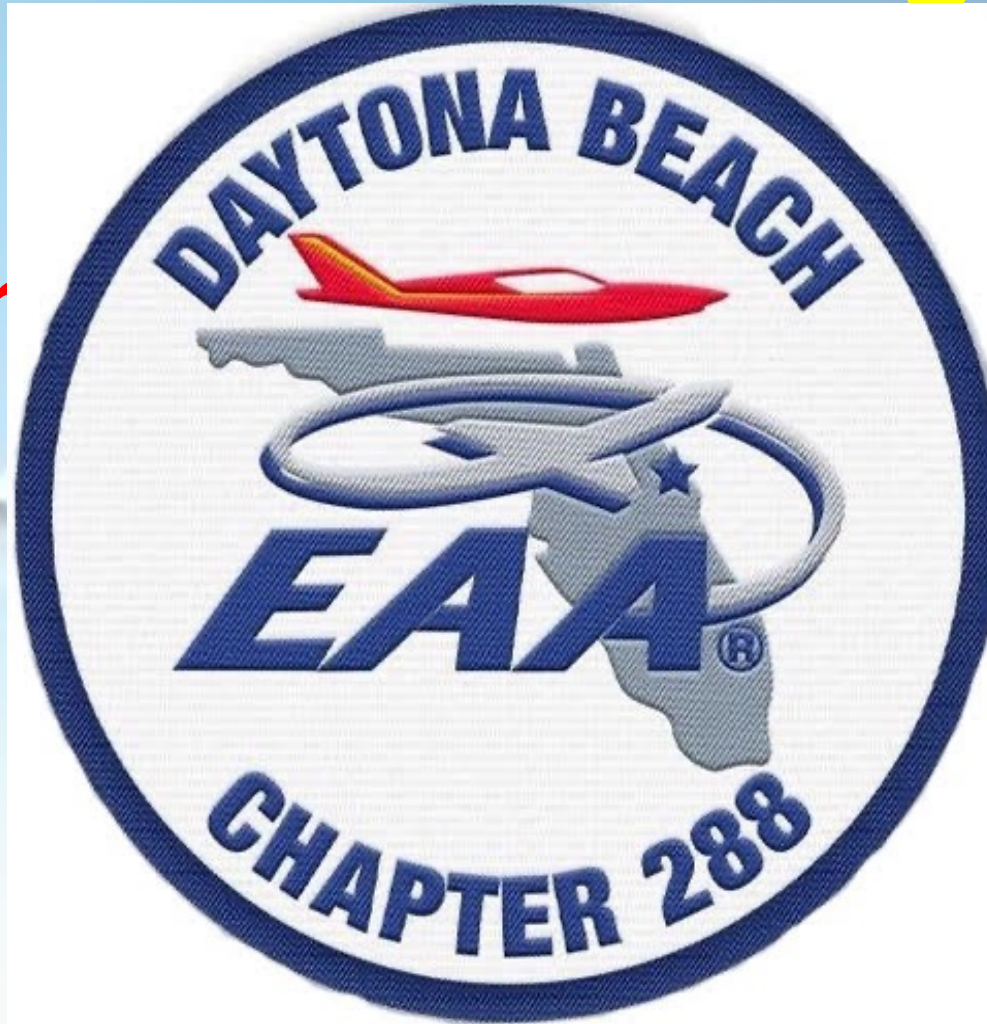


2026 Gatherings

**September
17TH**

7:00 PM



**LOTS GOING
ON In
Our New
HOME**

Get Involved!

Please...



**TURN OFF YOUR
SMARTPHONE**

Pledge of Allegiance



In honor of our vets and what we have
Thank you to all Veterans, Remember our POWs and MIAs

Welcome

I am Steve Bryk Chapter President
*Welcome to any visiting EAA members,
spouses, new members and special guests*

Welcome Guest Speaker
Professor Gary C. Kessler
See all our happenings on EAA288.org
Rick Weiss Editor and chief
Check it out
ea288president@gmail.com

Tonight's Gathering agenda:

- Welcome
 - New members / Visitors
- Young Eagles (Jim Clark)
- Chapter Update
 - President- Building Status
 - Mike Elstien –Fund raising and Development
 - Kirsten Kasper-STEM Aeroeducate
- Speaker
- Suggestions
- Close

Chapter Update

- FIRST Pancake Breakfast Tomorrow 9/18 at 8:00am to 10 EAA Building
- Interior Storefront wall and new entry door ordered target end of month
- New AC system ordered and schedule for install
- Honor wall plane being drawn and quoted
- STEM/ Aeroeducate lead Kirsten Presentation
- Camera broadcast system being evaluated
- V-tower working
- Funding team (Mike Elstien) Preso

Planning events

- Christmas Party December 18th
- More TBD (I NEED HELP!!) Event coordinator



THANK YOU:

Jim Clark, Event coordinator

- All the pilots
- The office crew
- Aircraft marshalers

NEXT EVENT 9/20/2026

- YE PILOTS GET \$.25 OFF A GALLON FROM YELVINGTON to fill up after flying

Mike Elstien: Development Leader

- Visioning: What does the chapter membership want
- Planning: Long term and Short Term
- Project Funding: Large Projects and Endowment

Current fundraising campaign for the short-term projects is underway and active.

We have several Donors that offered to match up to \$30K.

To date, we have received approximately **\$10,216 toward that \$30,000 matching opportunity**. We have a significant amount of matching money still available. Donate now, Donate Often. Let's get to **100% Participation**, even if you can only donate \$5. Go on-line and donate to capture participation percentage.



Permission is granted to turn your phones back on and donate now or later.

Mike Elstien Funding Leader 2026 funding program



S.T.E.M.

EAA Chapter 288

AeroEducate Introduction

Inspiring the next generation of aviators, engineers & STEM enthusiasts

September 17th, 2026

Kirsten Kasper Director of Advanced Programs
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

288 STEM Leader
cfikirsten@gmail.com



What Is AeroEducate?

Aviation + STEM + kids = opportunity

AeroEducate is EAA's FREE aviation education program for kids in grades K–12.

It combines fun, hands-on activities with online learning to spark curiosity, build knowledge, and inspire the next generation.

<https://www.aeroeducate.org/about>

Access to teaching aids, online curriculum and STEM activities

The question we want kids asking

“How does that fly?”

“Why does that happen?”

“Could I build that?”

“Could I do this as a career?”



EXPLORE. LEARN. BUILD. FLY.

EAA AEROEDUCATE



AeroEducate Online!

Set-up your account

1

Go to AeroEducate.org

Select "Get Started Today" to begin registration.

2

Choose the right account

Students, parents, teachers, and chapters have different account types.

3

Create your login

Follow the registration prompts and create your account.

4

Go to your dashboard

Once registration is complete, you'll be redirected to your dashboard.

AGES 13–18

Student creates their own account

- Register as a student
- Log in directly to AeroEducate
- Activities appear on the student dashboard
- Work through activities and earn badges

Parent/guardian involvement is still encouraged.

AGES 12 AND UNDER

Parent creates the account

- Parent creates a parent account
- Add child(ren) to the parent account
- Child accesses activities through the dashboard
- Track progress and badges together

This is the route for younger students.



Scan to get started

For our EAA 288 events: we'll help families get accounts set up before or at the event.

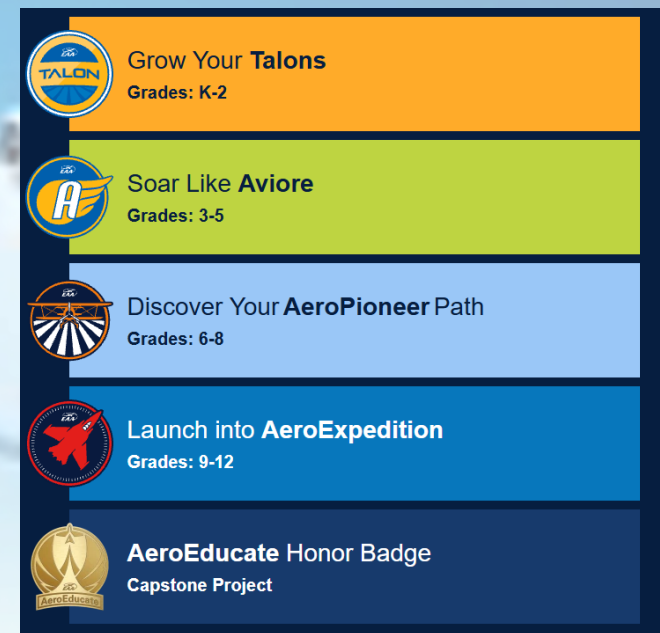
EXPLORE. LEARN. BUILD. FLY.

EAA AEROEDUCATE

A badging system gives students a way to track progress and keep exploring.

Badging System

- Earn badges by completing aviation activities
- Four core areas: Flight, Aviation Science & Technology, Careers, and Community Involvement.
- Badges are age/grade appropriate
- Students can progress through multiple levels as their knowledge and skills grow.
- Chapter activities can count toward badging.
- Badges recognize achievement



The ultimate AeroEducate badge is earned by completing the AeroExpedition and Capstone requirements, with the Capstone focused on developing a future aviation career plan.

EXPLORE. LEARN. BUILD. FLY.

EAA AEROEDUCATE



AeroEducate Activities

Age-appropriate activities help kids explore concepts through learning and doing.

Age-appropriate activities help kids explore concepts through learning and doing.

Flexibility in what type of events, frequency of events, and what takes place in the events

Access to teaching aids, online curriculum and STEM activities



EXPLORE. LEARN. BUILD. FLY.

EAA AEROEDUCATE

AeroEducate at EAA Chapters

EAA chapters play a vital role in bringing AeroEducate to life!

LOCAL CONNECTION

Bring the program to kids in our community—at airports, schools, and events.

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES

Kids learn best by doing—our events make aviation and STEM real.

MENTORSHIP MATTERS

Connect kids with caring adults who share their passion and knowledge.

PATHWAY TO OPPORTUNITY

From AeroEducate to Young Eagles and beyond—build connections to aviation.



EXPLORE. LEARN. BUILD. FLY.

EAA AEROEDUCATE



PHASE 1 GETTING STARTED

Now → First Event

- Build volunteer team
- Establish roles
- Learn AeroEducate system and activities
- Create registration process
- Develop outreach
- Run first event
- Lessons learned on what works



Lay a solid foundation.
Take action.



PHASE 2 BUILD

Next 3-6 months

- Schedule more AeroEducate events (monthly?)
- Continue to build relationships moving to partnerships with schools and volunteers
- Develop additional activities
- Have repeatable event template



Build momentum.
Strengthen programs.



PHASE 3 GROW

Next 6-12 months

- Strengthen and add sponsors
- Begin offering mentorship opportunities
- Determine if Young Eagles and AeroEducate can coordinate
- Organize and run a summer camp week



Expand our reach.
Establish long-term contacts.



PHASE 4 DREAM BIGGER

Past 12 months

- Commit to yearly events
- Expand events (if practical)
- Integrate and begin offering more EAA programs (i.e. build projects)
- Regular scholarship and career pathway assistance



Repeatable programs.
Weave in more initiatives.





Our First Event – STEM AVIATION FAMILY DAY!

Simple. Fun. Repeatable.

OBJECTIVES LOOK LIKE...

High Level Objectives:

- Focus on middle school aged group (grades 6-8)
- Create a fun, welcoming day where kids experience aviation by doing—not just watching.
- Blend **flight, maintenance, and engineering careers**.
- Generate sign-ups for the AeroEducate online program and excitement for other events

Activity Objectives

- Hands-on
- Small groups
- Short rotations
- Simple explanations

SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE...

Kids have a great experience.

Volunteers learn what works.

We test the process.

We identify improvements.

We make local community connections.

Everyone has fun.

Kids leave wanting to come back.

EXPLORE. LEARN. BUILD. FLY.

EAA AEROEDUCATE



Station Map + Flow

A simple layout helps volunteers and families understand where to go next.

Station A: Maintenance Activity - Make a Keychain

- 35–40 min
- One clear challenge
- Volunteer-led

Station B: Maintenance Activity - TBD

- Build • 35–40 min
- One clear challenge
- Volunteer-led

Station C: Flight Activity - Navigation Charts

- Explore • 35–40 min
- One clear challenge
- Volunteer-led

Station D: Flight Activity - TBD

- Explore 35–40 min
- One clear challenge
- Volunteer-led

Station E: Engineering Activity - TBD

- Test • 35–40 min
- One clear challenge
- Volunteer-led

Station F: Engineering Activity - Tinkercad

- Discover • 35–40 min
 - <http://tinkercad.com/ipad-app>
- Volunteer led
Need iPads

EXPLORE. LEARN. BUILD. FLY.

EAA AEROEDUCATE

Draft Agenda



Time	Activity	Description
0800 – 0945	Set-up	
1000 - 1030	Activity Station Rotation 1	All attendees can choose which station they are interested in
1030 - 1100	Activity Station Rotation 2	All attendees can choose which station they are interested in
1100 - 1130	Activity Station Rotation 3	All attendees can choose which station they are interested in
1130 - 1200	Activity Station Rotation 4	All attendees can choose which station they are interested in
1200 - 1230	Lunch Speakers	
1230 - 1300	Activity Station Rotation 5	All attendees can choose which station they are interested in
1300 - 1330	Activity Station Rotation 5	All attendees can choose which station they are interested in
1330 - 1400	Activity Station Rotation 6	All attendees can choose which station they are interested in



Tables/Other

A simple layout helps volunteers and families understand where to go next.

AeroEducate Online – Create an account

Young Eagles Information/Sign-up Table

Aircraft Static Display

Scholarship Information

Meet the Professionals

Simulators

EXPLORE. LEARN. BUILD. FLY.

EAA AEROEDUCATE

Volunteer Roles

Assign people to jobs before event day so station leaders can focus on the kids.

Chapter Help

- Run the activity
- Keep students moving
- Ask questions
- Watch safety
- Reset station

Planning Help

- Handle supplies
- Cover breaks
- Help with transitions
- Solve small problems
- Redirect families

Event Help

- Check in families
- Explain schedule
- Assign groups
- Answer parent questions
- Coordinate emergency response
- Run the activity
- Keep students moving
- Ask questions
- Watch safety
- Reset station
- Handle supplies
- Cover breaks
- Help with transitions
- Solve small problems

EXPLORE. LEARN. BUILD. FLY.

EAA AEROEDUCATE

Key Milestones

September 30

Event goes live for sign-ups

October 14

Agenda and Activities Finalized

October 17

All Hands (Volunteer Meeting)

October 20

All Volunteers Confirmed

October 30

All supplies purchased

November 5

Sign-up Closed

EXPLORE. LEARN. BUILD. FLY.

EAA AEROEDUCATE

Specific Example Roles

- Sign-Up Method
 - Expertise in website and methods for participants to sign-up
- Activity Expertise
 - Tinkercad (or other) expertise (and iPads available)
 - Maintenance expertise
 - Speakers
 - Career background volunteers

**Give kids their first spark of aviation—
and a reason to keep exploring.**

EXPLORE • BUILD • FLY • DISCOVER

EAA Chapter 288 AeroEducate



**Let's get started.
Contact: Kirsten.cifkirstenr@gmail.com**

Tonight's Speaker Professor Gary C. Kessler

Brought to us by Dr. Brett Arron

We are pleased to welcome **Professor Kessler** as our featured guest speaker. Professor Kessler brings extensive professional experience and a fascinating range of expertise:

Retired professor, international lecturer, and cybersecurity consultant

Works with the **U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and other federal organizations**

Recognized expertise in:

- Maritime cybersecurity

- Automatic Identification Systems (AIS)

- GPS and Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS)

- GPS interference and signal disruption

- GPS spoofing and its potential impact on navigation

Active member of the local **U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary**

Has held several Auxiliary leadership positions, most recently serving as

Flotilla Commander

Participates in important on-the-water missions, including:

- Boating-safety patrols

- Voluntary vessel-safety checks

- Search-and-rescue operations

- Navigational-buoy monitoring



Thank you for coming and
Breakfast at 08:00.

In preparation for tomorrow please leave
the chairs at the tables. Those willing
To stay and help we will be doing our final
set up.

SEE YOU IN THE AM