



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 27, 2026**

## **SMITHFIELD YOUTH HEADING TO WORLD AEROBATICS CHAMPIONSHIP**

**Uniontown, PA** – A Fayette County teen is flying high in the world of aerobatics.

Fifteen-year-old Angstrom Eberenz of Smithfield has qualified as the Junior Representative for Team USA in control line model precision aerobatics, and will compete in the 2026 Control Line Aircraft World Championship in Perth, Australia, in May.

He will also take part in the preliminary World Cup event the week before the championship.

Angstrom is the son of Brendan and Toni Eberenz, and Brendan said his son's success in aerobatics has taken him a bit by surprise.

"I could have never seen this coming when he started," Brendan said. "I remember when he was 8 years old, out there flying, and the challenges we had just getting a plane airborne."

After an initial adjustment period – and his fair share of crashes – Angstrom got the hang of it and quickly began to master the skill.

"(The championship wasn't) on our radar until last summer," Brendan said. "He has really dedicated himself and put the time and effort in, and he's being rewarded by winning a place on the team."

Control line precision aerobatics, sometimes referred to as FAI F2B, involves large model aircraft being flown in a stunt pattern in front of a panel of judges. Scoring is based on the smoothness and accuracy of the maneuvers, and there are 17 maneuvers that must be performed during an official flight.

A sophomore at Commonwealth Charter Academy, Angstrom first became interested in control line flying at the age of 8, while living in Carmichaels. Each year, the town hosts the Brodak Fly-In, the second largest control competition besides the National Aeromodelling Championships.

"We were just driving around one day, and we saw a sign for it," Angstrom said. "I thought it looked like something that would be fun to do."

Brendan said Angstrom "practiced through the week with an experienced flyer and then took first place at the end of the week in his first competitive event (Basic Flight). As he grew as an aeromodelling competitor, Angstrom ventured beyond precision aerobatics, and has competed in speed, racing and Navy carrier events."

Since those early days, Angstrom has won three National Aeromodelling Championships titles in precision aerobatics and several in control line Navy carrier. "He also holds eight national records in control line Navy carrier," Brendan said.

But his road to becoming part of Team USA wasn't completely smooth.

"Following the NATS in 2025, Angstrom decided to train up and dedicate himself to making Team USA for FAI F2B," Brendan said. "He trained hard for two and a half months in our backyard and went to team trials in Granite Bay, California, in October."

At team trials, Angstrom experienced harrowing flights in 20 mile per hour winds, as well as "an absolute battle" with another boy for the spot on Team USA.

"Angstrom outflew the other kid but came in second place because he forgot a maneuver," Brendan recalled, noting had Angstrom included that maneuver, "he would have had an automatic ticket to the World Championships."

Angstrom's disappointment lasted only two months, though, as the other boy stepped down. That meant Angstrom had a spot on Team USA.

"(It felt) amazing that all my hard work actually paid off and everything," Angstrom said.

Angstrom has been training daily since earning that spot, though spring weather in Pennsylvania hasn't exactly been helpful.

"We need the temperature to be above 40 degrees, not raining, and cooperative winds in order to practice. Unfortunately, the spring has been unkind, and we are constantly hawking the forecast hoping to find we can get some flights in," Brendan said. "We try to put up four to six full pattern flights (about six minutes each) in a training session."

Brendan said his son is proud of his accomplishments and prepared for the trip to Perth.

"There has been a lot of adversity and character-building in the journey to make Team USA, but Angstrom is locked in and ready for the world stage," he said.

Angstrom knows exactly what he wants to achieve when he gets there.

"My goal is to really be the first-place Junior," he said. "Just be in the top 20 overall, that's what I'm hoping for."

Looking to the future, Angstrom said control line precision flying has given him an interest in flying full-size aircraft. But at least one parent may not be on board with his plans.

"I have actually thought about being a pilot, but my mom kind of thinks it's too dangerous," he said.

Though airfare to Australia is covered, most of the trip has to be paid for out of pocket. Brendan, who is a member of the U.S. Public Health Service, said that can be tough for a single-income military family. The Eberenz family has started a GoFundMe to help with expenses, and Brendan said they are grateful for any help they receive.

To donate, visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/angstrom-to-australia>.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit [www.fayettcountypa.org](http://www.fayettcountypa.org).

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*This communication is part of the Fayette County PR Initiative, which is funded through the Fayette County Local Share Account (LSA) and Hotel Tax Grants in cooperation with the Fayette County Board of Commissioners, Fayette Chamber of Commerce, The Redevelopment Authority of the County of Fayette, The Redstone Foundation and other partners. This funding has been designated for the continued promotion and marketing of Fayette County, PA.*

For more information, contact Rick Fike, Director of Discover Fayette & Fayette TV, at 724-437-4571, [rfike@fayettcountypa.info](mailto:rfike@fayettcountypa.info)