

Friends of Barnes Airport

2026 Fredrika A. Ballard Memorial Flight Training Scholarship at Fly Lugu

Established in 2025

This scholarship is given once per student. Financial information is not required to apply. Students pursuing a career in Aviation or a related field are encouraged to apply.

E-Mail your application to: info@friendsofbarnesairport.org with the subject line “2026 Rika Ballard Scholarship Application”

Deadline to apply: July 1, 2026

Award Amount: \$2500

Eligibility requirements:

- Be local to Barnes Airport
- Passion for aviation
- Essay must be in your own words, cannot use AI
- Provide 3 letters of reference
- Must be 16 at the time of application (parental consent needed, if under 18)

Application requirements:

- Provide an essay (500-800 words) highlighting the applicant’s passion for aviation and commitment to a career in aviation management, pilot training, or aircraft maintenance
- Highlight any leadership roles, participation in aviation, related clubs or organizations, or relevant extracurricular activities
- Describe any community service or outreach activities related to aviation
- Showcase any innovative projects, research, or initiatives related to aviation
- List any academic, technological, or aviation-related achievements and awards

Fredrika A. Ballard Memorial Scholarship

Rika was a second-generation pilot who Solo'd at Westfield-Barnes Airport at the age of 16. She returned to flying in 2016. She earned her Flight Instructor rating in August 2019 and her Instrument Flight Instructor rating in February 2020. She created Fly Lugu Flight Training to serve an unmet need in the community. Serving on the Advisory Council of Westfield Technical Academy she recognized an opportunity to "bridge the gap" and champion STEM education in our local community. Rika was an active member of the Ninety Nines, International Organization of Women Pilots, Women in Aviation International as well as Western Mass Wright Flight and Kiwanis Club of Westfield. Her goal was to introduce the greater Westfield community to the wonderful world of aviation and help new aviators achieve their goal of being sky bound. She also worked hard to encourage women to become pilots, since at the time only 6% of pilots were women. Her passion and hard work awarded her the 2023 Western Mass Women of Impact award by BusinessWest for all her dedication and hard work revitalizing the aviation community at Westfield Barnes Airport but also for promoting women in aviation.

“The sky isn’t your limit”



Fredrika A. Ballard Memorial Scholarship Application

Cover sheet

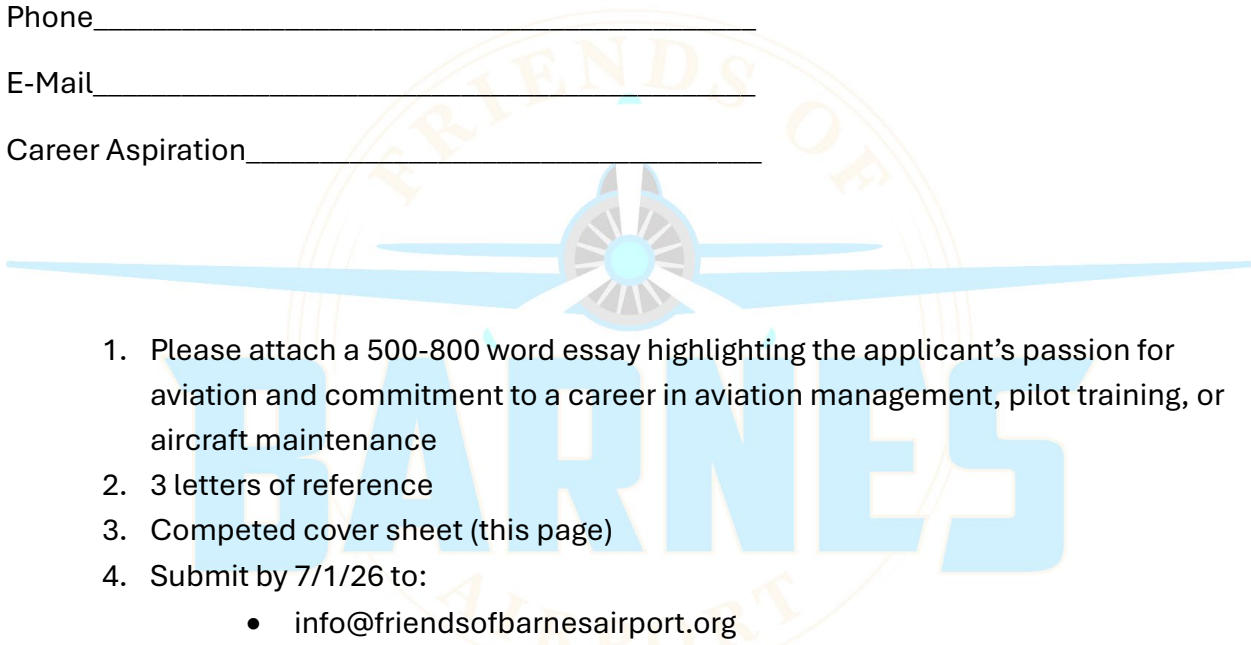
Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Career Aspiration _____

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1. Please attach a 500-800 word essay highlighting the applicant's passion for aviation and commitment to a career in aviation management, pilot training, or aircraft maintenance
 2. 3 letters of reference
 3. Completed cover sheet (this page)
 4. Submit by 7/1/26 to:
 - info@friendsofbarnesairport.org
 - Subject line "2026 Fredrika Ballard Scholarship Application"
 - PDF format as an attachment