

2023

ANNUAL REPORT



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

“Minnesota ACE Camp’s vision is to inspire and support the next generation of aviation professionals along the many steps of their journey to help them realize and reach their dreams. As I reflect on our commitment, I am so proud of the many ways our organization has delivered – strengthening our internal organizational structure, increasing financial aid and scholarship opportunities offered year over year, enhancing our programming, welcoming new volunteers to our team, supporting our existing partnerships, and building a stronger connection with our community. Enjoy reading about our highlights and achievements in this year’s Annual Report.”

Katrina Mittelstadt

Chairperson; Board of Directors



OPERATIONS OVERVIEW



The purpose of Minnesota Aviation Career Education Camp is educational: To teach, guide, and encourage high school students interested in careers in the aviation and aerospace industries.



2023, MN ACE camp hosted two summer camps, which included 57 students and the help of over 80 volunteers.

- **Camp hosted: 22 tours, 15 unique aviation-related activities, five flying opportunities, and over one dozen speakers throughout the week.**
- **Highlights include: Flights in general aviation aircraft, helicopters, gliders, and a seaplane; a tour of the MSP Air Traffic Control Tower, behind the scenes tour of Delta Airlines airport operations, baggage handling, the Chief Pilot's office, and learning about many of the unique career opportunities that exist in the aviation industry.**



FINANCIAL AID SUMMARY





17

total Financial Aid awards granted, including three 90% awards, three 75% awards, six 50% awards, and five 25% awards.

100%

of Financial Aid awardees had a demonstrated financial need for camp attendance.

\$14,900

of Financial Aid awards, with an average award of \$876 per student.

FINANCIAL AID AWARD WINNERS

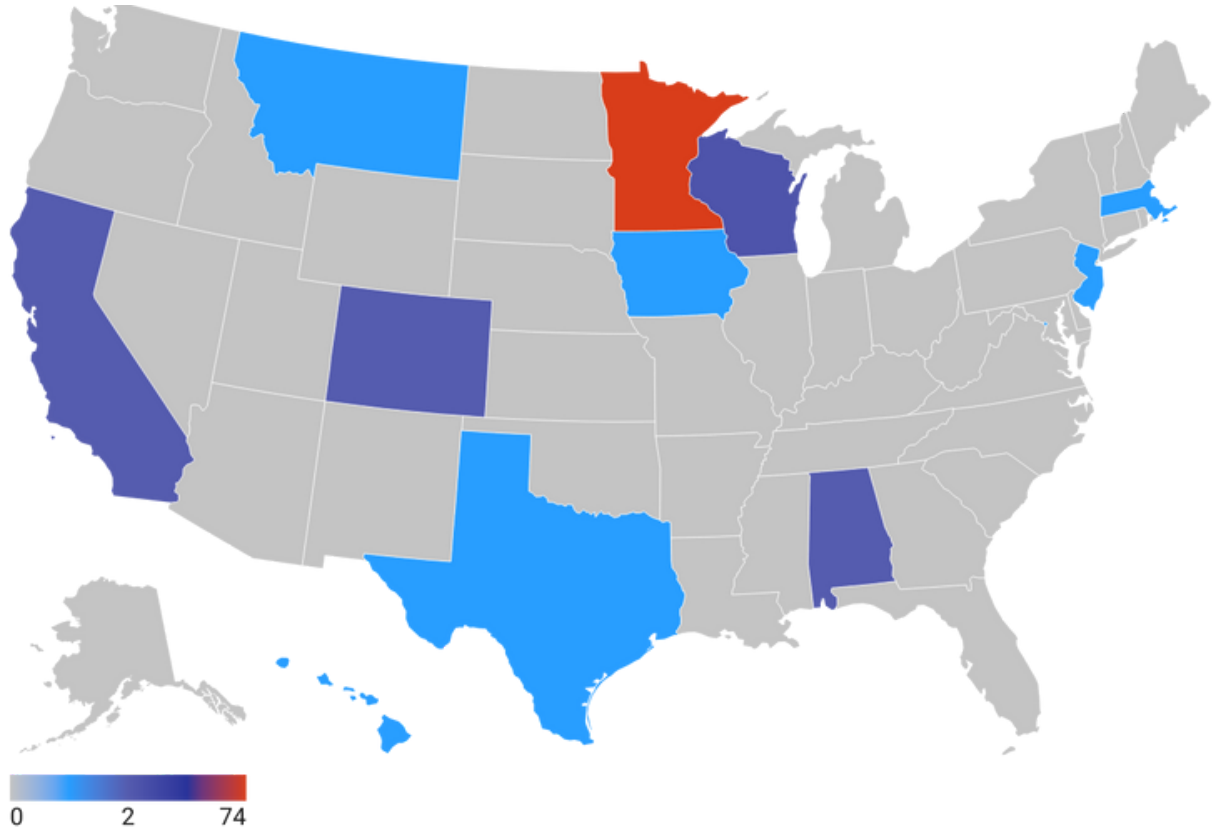


VITAL STATISTICS: CAMP APPLICANTS SUMMARY



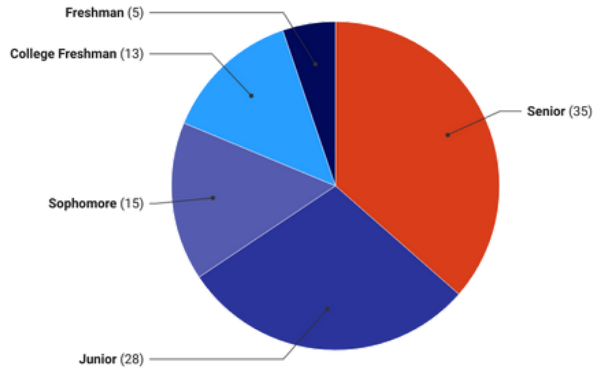
Applicant Information Summary

- 96 Applicants from 12 States and Territories and Two Countries (USA, Laos, Washington DC)
- 62 Students selected for two camps
- Selected Students represent 9 States: MN, AL, CA, CO, HI, IA, MA, MT, WI



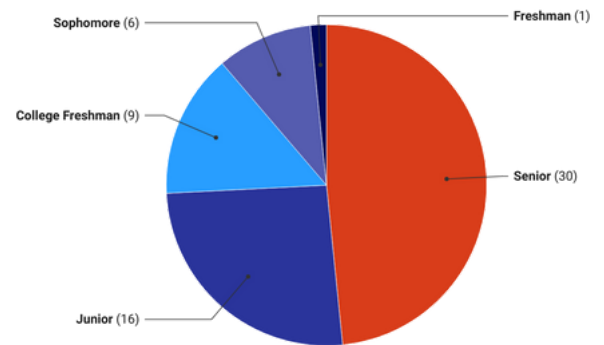
Applied: 35 Senior | 28 Junior | 15 Sophomore

2023 Applicant Grade Distribution



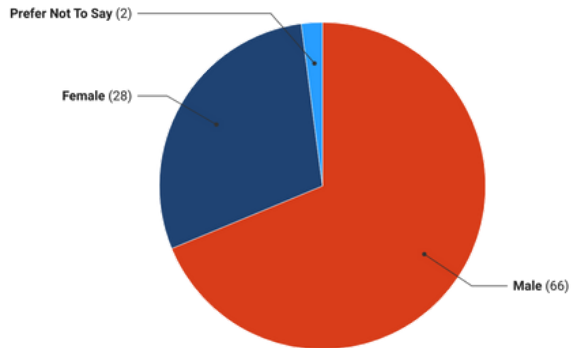
Selected: 30 Senior | 16 Junior | 6 Sophomore

2023 Selected Student Grade Distribution



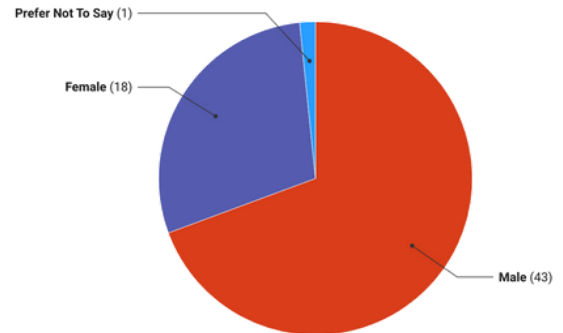
Applied: 66 Male, 28 Female, 2 Not Specified

2023 Applicant Gender Distribution



Selected: 43 Male, 18 Female, 1 Not Specified

2023 Selected Student Gender Distribution



Note: Recently graduated seniors are considered College Freshman.



CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP SUMMARY



2023 was the second year of our continuing education Elevate Award scholarships. These scholarships are dedicated to bridging the gap between classroom and career and helping students and the MN ACE Camp community pursue the opportunities presented to them. In 2023, the MN ACE Camp Board of Directors approved \$20,000.

Our awardees for 2023 included:

HANNAH SHICKLES

**DUBUQUE, IOWA
AWARDED \$3,000**



Hannah's journey into aviation began unexpectedly when she volunteered at the Kelch Aviation Museum for her high school senior project. Initially unfamiliar with aviation, a chance offer to fly in a vintage biplane changed her perspective. This transformative experience sparked her passion for aviation, leading her to work at the museum for three years in various roles, from Archivist to Museum Curator. Hannah's dedication and diverse responsibilities ranged from designing museum layouts to coordinating events and flying museum aircraft. Her aviation journey continued as she pursued flight training, earning her private pilot certificate by trading her unique skill of reskinning antique airplane wings for flight hours. The Elevate Award will fund Hannah's Instrument Rating, easing financial concerns and contributing to her path of success in the industry.

THOMAS BOTKIN



**CORCORAN, MINNESOTA
AWARDED \$3,000**

Striving to become a military officer and pilot, Thomas is eager to use his Elevate Award to secure his instrument rating and refine his aviation skills. This pursuit increases his prospects for admission into the U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA) and prepares him for the challenges of military aviation. Thomas is no stranger to overcoming difficulties. At 14, he navigated the complexities of training during the COVID-19 pandemic, successfully earning his PPL. His dedication to service and academic excellence is evident through his leadership role in the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) and his enrollment in nine advanced placement courses. Thomas views the Elevate Award as a strategic commitment to his future, aiding him in achieving his goals.

TYLER HUDSON

**NORTH MANKATO,
MINNESOTA
AWARDED \$3,000**



Tyler, a dedicated Cadet Airman in the Civil Air Patrol's Mankato, Minnesota Squadron, is on a mission to achieve his aviation dreams. Utilizing the Elevate Award, he plans to complete the final 10 hours of his Private Pilot License (PPL) and initiate training for his Instrument Rating. Guided by his instructor, Chris Soderman, Tyler is recognized for consistently meeting and exceeding standards. Tyler attended MN ACE Camp in 2023. This experience provided Tyler with valuable insights into airport operations and mentorship from experienced airline pilots, solidifying his aspirations of becoming a commercial pilot with Delta Air Lines.

LAURA SCHEVENIUS



**LAKEVILLE, MINNESOTA
AWARDED \$3,000**

Laura, inspired by a family legacy of Army helicopter pilots, earned her pilot's license at the University of North Dakota. Commissioned into the Minnesota Army National Guard, she excelled in Army flight school, becoming proficient in UH-60 A/L and Blackhawk helicopters. Laura's versatile career encompasses service as a National Guardsman, an Air Traffic Controller, and a deployment to South Texas, earning her the Army Commendation Medal. Beyond her military service, Laura has dedicated four years to MN ACE Camp as a camp counselor and military sponsor. Transitioning back into civilian life with the support of her husband, Laura aims to pursue a commercial aviation career. Her Elevate Award will help offset some of the cost of her Multi-Engine Rating and Restricted ATP.

NICHOLAS WARD

**SHELBYVILLE, KENTUCKY
AWARDED \$3,000**



Nicholas, a senior at Eastern Kentucky University, has harbored a profound love for aviation since childhood, marked by early memories of taking flights and exploring classic aircraft alongside his uncle. As an adult, his academic achievements in airline management, airport operations and meteorology highlight his commitment to becoming a well-rounded aviation professional. As he nears graduation, Nick has actively engaged in career-building activities, from airside tours at MSP and SDF to behind-the-scenes experiences at Endeavor Airlines, showcasing his commitment to learning and networking. Nick plans to attend North American Flight Control for his dispatch license next year. The Elevate Award will help pave the way for him to begin a career as an airline dispatcher.

HANNAH HENDERSON



**TONTO BASIN, ARIZONA
AWARDED \$2,000**

From flight attendant to pilot, Hannah's narrative embodies the unyielding force of determination and perseverance in the pursuit of dreams. Since 2010, she has navigated financial challenges and the delicate balance of motherhood amidst demanding flight training. Despite these hurdles, Hannah achieved significant milestones, obtaining her PPL and Instrument Rating. Now, with the Elevate Award, she is poised to complete her CFI. Actively engaged in aviation organizations like WAI and Civil Air Patrol, Hannah, supported by her husband Justin, daughter Hazel, and instructors Steve and Becky Vaught, aspires to become a commercial pilot. Her story is an inspiration, echoing from the aisles to the cockpit, inspiring girls worldwide.

MERIDATH JACKSON

GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA
AWARDED \$1,500



During her time at UND, Meridath excelled academically and took on key leadership roles in various aviation-related initiatives. She served as president of the University of North Dakota Women in Aviation Chapter, mentored students in the Student Aviation Advisory Council, acted as the committee chair for Students Educating Students To Go Higher (an aviation nonprofit organization), and worked as a mental health advocate in the UpLift program within the Aerospace College. Meridath's dedication to inspiring the next generation of aviators led to her involvement as a committee member for MN ACE Camp. The Elevate Award will help support her completion of MEI training, bringing her one step closer to achieving her goal of becoming a first officer at Endeavor Air.

JONAH OLSON



**LITTLE FALLS, MINNESOTA
AWARDED \$1,500**

Jonah's interest in aviation was cultivated through family outings to airshows and explorations of vintage aircraft from WWII and the Vietnam era. Jonah's talents extend beyond aviation, encompassing achievements in music and sports. After graduating high school in 2023, Jonah attended MN ACE Camp, a transformative experience that redirected his focus from multiple 4-year music school scholarships to a career in aviation. Currently pursuing a dual major in Robotics and Music at a local college, Jonah takes PPL lessons at Lakes Area Aviation. Jonah's resilience, strong family support, and mentorship from Carl Rydeen, retired ATC, position him as a deserving recipient of the Elevate Award.

FINANCIAL IMPACT SUMMARY

In 2023, MN ACE Camp awarded Financial Aid for camp attendees and Elevate Award continuing education scholarships. In total, \$14,900 was awarded to students for Financial Aid, and \$20,000 was awarded for the second year of the Elevate Award, totaling \$34,900. 2023 was the first year in our history that we were able to accommodate every student's Financial Aid request.

MN ACE Camp was selected for the State of Minnesota - Office of Higher Education's summer camp financial assistance program called the Summer Academic Enrichment Program (SAEP). Students who qualify for free or reduced lunches are eligible for up to a \$1,000 stipend to attend an approved summer camp of their choosing. This will be advertised and implemented in 2024.

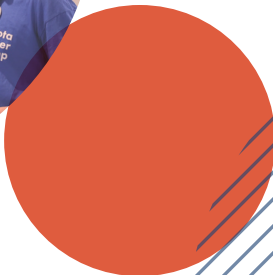




ACCOMPLISHMENTS



MN ACE Camp applied for and was awarded a generous grant from the Ray Foundation Inc. in 2023, which marked our second award and a continuation of their support from the previous year. The Ray Foundation Inc., founded in 1963, seeks to encourage the potential in the youth of America by enabling them to develop life skills such as self-discipline, self-confidence, and self-reliance. Keeping with the spirit of its founders, Ray Foundation Inc. primarily supports education programs and organizations with a focus on aviation and aerospace. The award was used for 2023 camp Financial Aid and Elevate Awards. Thank you to the Ray Foundation Inc. for their continued and generous support of our organization!



airport foundation



In 2023, MN ACE Camp submitted a grant request to help offset the cost of overhead expenses. The Airport Foundation MSP dedicates itself to elevating the travel experience at MSP International Airport as well as supporting the airport and the broader aviation community. Thank you to the Airport Foundation MSP for their generous grant award!

PROPEL

by  DELTA

MN ACE Camp continues to be a community partner for Delta Propel. This exceptional program allows our students and volunteers an early entrance opportunity into Delta Propel and a defined track and timeline to being a Delta Air Lines pilot.



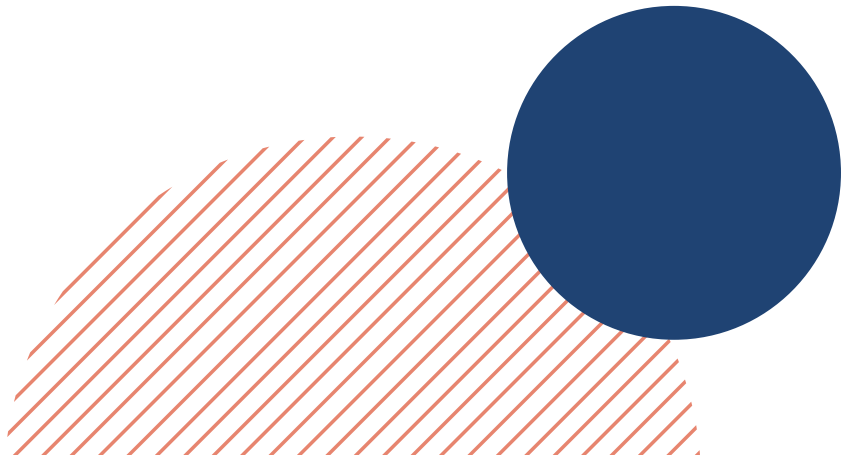
We continue to support our Big Brothers Big Sisters partnership and look forward to planning 2024 events that introduce aviation to the broad network of interested students.



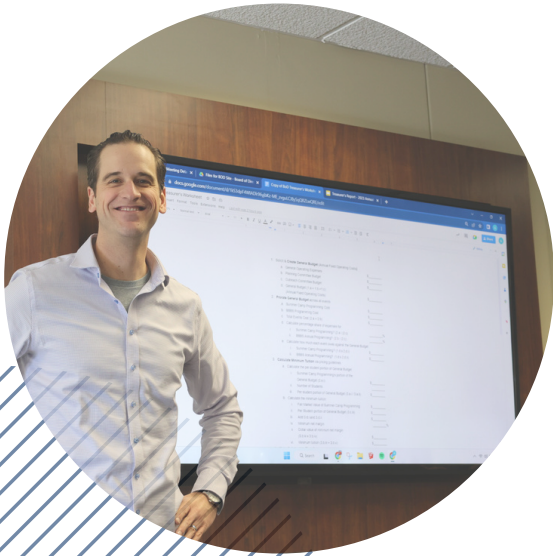


EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

In September, MN ACE Camp staffed a booth with several of our volunteers and took part in the world's largest Girls in Aviation Day event at Flying Cloud Airport. The leadership of Women in Aviation International - Northern Lights has been collaborative and incredibly helpful to MN ACE Camp for many years. This was a way to show our support and appreciation while educating interested students about our organization and how to attend camp.



We held our very first BoD Social following our annual BoD Meeting in 2023. This event welcomed over 50 of our community donors, volunteers, and members to socialize, create new relationships, and solicit feedback from the local aviation community. We received positive feedback for this event and will be including it at each of our future annual BoD meetings.



A very warm welcome to the newest electees of our Board of Directors! At the 2023 annual BoD meeting, Brian Wall and Lauren Hensley were elected as Board Members to terms lasting up to five years. We thank them for their service and appreciate all they have done for us.



BRIAN WALL



LAUREN HENSLEY



2024 EXPECTATIONS

- The annual **Board of Directors meeting** will be held January 11-12, 2024, at Signature Flight Support at the Minneapolis International Airport (MSP). The Board of Directors Social will be held following the meeting on January 11th.
- Applications for **MN ACE Camp 2024** are expected to open in early February. Two camps will be held in June 2024. Sign up for our mailing list to be notified.
- The **Strategic Planning and Support Committee (SPSC)** has been working since early 2023 to interview the BoD and long-term volunteers for a new strategic plan that will carry us into 2026. These long-format interviews help identify new priorities, goals, and directions for MN ACE Camp based on feedback from our most dedicated volunteers.





KLM

PH-AKF

The Flying Dutchman

INQUIRIES & POLICIES

Please submit requests for financial information or organizational policies and procedures to fundraising@mnacecamp.org.

- 2022 annual IRS 990-EZ filing
- 2023 approved budget
- IRS determination letter
- Statement of financial standing
- Requests for special financial statements will be honored
- MN ACE Camp policy manual
- MN ACE Camp bylaws



More information about our organization can be found at www.mnacecamp.org