

MEDIA RELEASE

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AMA AND EAA COLLABORATE ON YOUTH/STUDENT MEMBERSHIPS

M U N C I E, I N - The Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) and the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) have agreed to a joint student/youth membership for all eight- through 19-year olds who complete an EAA Young Eagles introductory full-scale flight.

“Thousands of youngsters are given that first airplane flight through the Young Eagles program by EAA,” said AMA President Dave Mathewson. “We think it’s a natural for them to be exposed to model aviation at the same time. We’re happy to offer a joint youth membership.”

More than 1.6 million Young Eagles have taken flight since the program began in 1992, helped by 40,000 EAA-member pilots. Up to 80,000 youngsters are invited annually and approximately 20,000 take the EAA up on its offer. The EAA’s Young Eagles program is supported by Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

“Model flying can help keep young people engaged in aviation,” said Jeff Nance, AMA marketing and programs director, “whether they want to pursue a pilot certificate, choose an aviation career or just want to fly a model for fun.” The AMA currently has 10,200 youth members.

All EAA and AMA student and youth memberships are reciprocal as long as the eligible youth opt in, including scholarship opportunities from both organizations when respective criteria are met. The joint youth members will receive a membership card for both programs. This card will signify both membership and insurance coverage for model flying activity.

For additional information, please refer to EAA’s announcement at http://www.eaa.org/news/2010/2010-10-19_student_membership.asp.

The Academy of Model Aeronautics, founded in 1936, is the nation’s collective voice for the sport and hobby of model aviation with more than 140,000 members in 2,400 clubs across the country. It sanctions 2,000 events and competitions each year from its headquarters in Muncie, Indiana.

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