

2017 First Flight Commemoration Essay Contest Winner Announced

By Ken Philippart

Images by Orville Wright, Jill Brown and Matt Strickland



The Greater Huntsville Section announced the winner of its First Flight Commemoration Contest on December 17, the 114th anniversary of the Wright Brothers first sustained, controlled flight.

This was the second year that the section sponsored the contest as part of its Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program to encourage young people to pursue STEM and aviation-related careers while commemorating the anniversary of the birth of the aerospace industry.

The contest was changed from to an essay contest this year from the inaugural video contest to encourage greater participation. As before, the contest was open to AIAA members' relatives between the ages of 12 and 17. Contestants submitted essays of no more than 1,000 words discussing the four forces of flight, how the Wright brothers addressed them, and one aspect of modern day aviation of interest to the contestant.

Charlotte Brown, daughter of AIAA Senior Member Jill Brown, was chosen as the winner for her essay titled, "*How the Wright Brothers Solved the Four Forces of Flight.*" Charlotte discussed thrust, drag, lift and weight and the Wrights' novel approaches to solving the challenges with each. Charlotte also discussed her interest in using unmanned aircraft for agriculture. Coming from a farming community, she extolled the benefits of using unmanned aircraft for agricultural purposes.

In recognition of her winning essay, Charlotte will receive a free hour of flight instruction courtesy of Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 190 at Moontown Airport (3M5) and a log book to document her flight instruction.



Contest winner Charlotte Brown.



Runner up Joseph Strickland.

The runner up winning entry was from Joseph Strickland, son of AIAA Senior Member Matt Strickland. Joseph will receive a 30-minute orientation flight, also courtesy of EAA Chapter 190.

Congratulations to Charlotte and Joseph. The Greater Huntsville Section wishes you continued success in your aerospace endeavors.

Thank you to Pre-College Outreach Director Brittani Search and judges Tammy Statham, Lisa Philippart and Ken Philippart, for planning and conducting the contest. And finally, a huge thank you to EAA Chapter 190 for so generously donating the contest's gifts of flight.