



# VAA CHAPTER 29 YOUNG EAGLES PROGRAM SAFETY PROCEDURES

The success of the VAA Chapter 29's Young Eagles Program is due to the combined efforts and cooperation of **all** participants. **Safety** for all participants is a primary factor to achieve the goal of our Young Eagles events, which is to cultivate an interest in aviation by children and their families.

It is important to note that the general public is not familiar with airplanes, how they move, the possible inability to see people (especially small children) when taxiing, and the dangers of spinning propellers. In addition, the general public may not understand the delicate nature of light aircraft, so it is our job to help convey this understanding to protect our aircraft. The following VAA Chapter 29 Young Eagles Program Safety Procedures are intended to address these concerns:

## **RAMP SAFETY**

- The ramp area shall be clearly defined for the display area and the aircraft movement area.
- All display aircraft shall be in position in the display area by no later than 9:30 AM to avoid conflicts with the arrival time of the participants.
- Display aircraft must stay in place until the Young Eagles event is finished. Display aircraft being taken out of the display area prior to the conclusion of the event shall be pushed out; no engine starts are allowed in the display area.
- The aircraft movement area is under the control of the designated ground crew lead person. This person will also direct the ground crew volunteers.
- **No child or parent is allowed in the aircraft movement area without a ground crew escort.**
- All children and families/groups shall attend a pre-flight briefing, directed by a Chapter volunteer. A principal purpose of this briefing is to explain the possible hazards of aircraft on the ground in addition to the need for cooperation by all participants to ensure a safe event. The escort requirements for the display area and aircraft movement area shall also be clearly explained.
- The ground crew escort will accompany the pilot and passengers to the aircraft and will also coordinate engine start ups with the ground crew lead.
- **No engine starts are allowed without the express mutual understanding between the pilot and ground crew escort that the area is clear, ready, and safe for an engine start.**
- The ground crew escorts are responsible to make sure the parents/guardians are brought back to the safety of the display and group areas.
- The pilots shall follow the direction of the ground crews for permission to taxi out of the aircraft movement area.

- When returning to the aircraft movement area, the pilots will be directed to a parking location in the aircraft movement area.
- Pilots are responsible to escort their passengers out of the aircraft movement area and back to their groups.
- Aircraft shall be parked to minimize propeller blast and related damage to other aircraft during subsequent engine starts.
- All children shall be accompanied by a responsible adult in the display area.
- For safety reasons, dogs and other pets cannot be allowed at VAA Chapter 29 Young Eagles events.

## **FLIGHT OPERATION SAFETY**

- All pilots shall check in upon arrival with the event coordinator. Pilots shall make sure their registration information is up-to-date (mailing address, EAA number, aircraft) as well as their currency for aircraft inspections, medical certification, and insurance.
- Pilots shall self-certify their fitness for flying. (If you're tired or fatigued there are plenty of other volunteer positions for these events.)
- **All pilots shall attend a pilot safety briefing at 9:30 AM prior to flying.** Ground support volunteers shall also attend. The pilot briefing will cover the following topics:
  - Review of Pilot Requirements
  - Discussion of Weather
  - Who will we be flying? Any special needs?
  - Ground flow for aircraft and necessary coordination with ground crews
  - Flight routes
  - NOTAMS
  - Ramp Safety
  - Flight Safety
  - Questions?
- Pilots who fail to attend the pilot safety briefing will not be allowed to fly for that day's event.
- Pilots who violate safety rules are not allowed to participate in the VAA Chapter 29 Young Eagles events.
- Pilots wishing to return to VAA Chapter 29 Young Eagles flight status may petition for consideration to the VAA Chapter 29 President and Young Eagles Coordinator.

## **POST EVENT SAFETY DE-BRIEFING**

- Following the Young Eagles event, a discussion will occur to identify those safety provisions which worked well and others which still need improvement. We will then implement those improvements.

*For any questions regarding the VAA Chapter 29 Young Eagles Program Safety Procedures, please contact the VAA Chapter 29 President.*