

EAA Chapter 67
Young Eagles
April 17, 2005

After several weather induced false starts and postponements the man upstairs finally smiled on Chapter 67, blessing Indianapolis with nearly perfect weather on Sunday April 17. At least, the day was as close to perfect as one can expect in mid April in Indiana. Our most recent Young Eagles program was held at Mt. Comfort airport Sunday afternoon.

That afternoon seven EAA members came together to help nine scouts from Boy Scout Troop 443 complete their aviation Merit Badge. Four young ladies joined eight of the Boy Scouts in taking Young Eagle Flights.

The Young Eagles had their choice of several aircraft: Mike Lewis flew two Young Eagles in his very nice Cessna 140, Bill Shumaker flew several Young Eagles in his Cessna 182, as did Mike Warren in his A-36 Bonanza. Thanks also to Jerry Smith for providing rides in his Decathlon.

As part of the Aviation Merit Badge the scouts were required to preflight an aircraft. Jack Vandeventer, retired professional pilot, and flight instructor demonstrated a thorough preflight inspection. Jack explained not only the mechanics of preflight, but also why each step of the preflight was important.

Another elective towards the merit badge required the scout to interview a professional pilot, military pilot, or flight instructor. To that list we added as an option an interview with a pilot who built and flew his own aircraft. The scouts had an opportunity to interview Eastwood Herrin, retired pilot with Continental Airlines and flight instructor, or John Ogle who had recently completed and was now conducting test flights on his Sonex. Most Scouts chose to interview both John and Eastwood. The boys were clearly interested. One only need read the comments in their reports for the Aviation Merit Badge.

The Chapter would also like to express its sincere thanks to Indy Aero, fixed base operator at Mount Comfort airport for providing facilities for safety instruction and interviews. Indy Aero also graciously provided a Cessna-182 for preflight inspections. Melanie Rector of Indy Aero was very helpful in coordinating the event.

One needs only look at the accompanying photos to tell that the Young Eagles enjoyed their flights. This writer looks forward to putting together another Young Eagles program when the next group of scouts has begun their Aviation Merit badge.

Respectfully submitted

Richard Hixson

Adult Participants

Eastwood Herrin	Chapter 67	interviews
Richard Hixson	Chapter 67	coordinator
Michael Lewis	EAA member	pilot C-140
John Ogle	Chapter 67	interviews
Jerry Smith	EAA Member	pilot Decathlon
Jack Vandeventer	Chapter 67	preflight inspection, interview
Mike Warren	Chapter 67	pilot Bonanza

Two scouts with Bill Shumaker and his Cessna 182. One poses with the propeller:



And then remembers our safety discussion about the propeller,



Several scouts (and parents) interview John Ogle about his flying experiences and his Sonex



Eastwood Herrin talks about his experience as a Continental pilot.



One young, (but not so short) scout, enjoyed his flight in Jerry Smith's Decathalon



Three scouts after their ride in Mike Warren's Bonanza



Several young ladies participate in the Young Eagle flight, in Mike Warren's Bonanza



and Bill Shumaker's Cessna 182



Jack Vandeventer demonstrates a thorough preflight inspection



Mike Lewis and scout after a ride in Mike's Cessna 140

