



2022 Jasper Harris, Jr. Aviation Scholarship



Axel Scales

**Big Bend Community College, WA
Commercial Pilot Program**

Since the seventh grade I have desired to become a commercial pilot. I took a Red Tailed Hawks Flying Club (RTH) exploration flight in 2018 and joined RTH in October of the same year. Through RTH, I have been to at least 37 behind the scenes aviation related excursions and lessons. Additionally, I was sponsored for two summers of Red-Tailed Hawks Flight Lessons for Youth (FLY).

As a "FLY cadet" I have accumulated 196 classroom hours, and logged 20 flight hours. During this experience, my favorite flight instructor feedback was, "Axel is an outstanding flyer. His control and feel for the aircraft is way above average. The flight today is outstanding... This was one of the best flights I have had with a low time student. I hope that Axel will continue his flight instruction to become a professional pilot." That feedback boosted my confidence and made me proud. Since then, I have passed the FAA Private Pilot Knowledge Exam and frequently volunteered to serve RTH as ground crew during RTH aviation camps and fly-ins and for RTH outreach events. These were opportunities of a lifetime made possible by the RTH.

This year I graduated High School with honors, and I will keep learning and doing what it takes to thrive in life and represent mentors and instructors well. Like Mr. Jasper Harris, Jr. I'm eager to contribute to the youth coming up after me that are interested in aviation. I will honor Mr. Harris's legacy by remembering all the benefits that are offered to me so I can support others. I believe that without major support, education and empowerment a career in aviation is out of reach for low income youth.

