



2023 Jasper Harris, Jr. Aviation Scholarship



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Since middle school, I've always had a strong passion for aviation. Joining the Red-Tailed Hawks (RTH) made me realize the amount of people who wanted successful futures for kids like me. With the resources provided to me by the Red-Tailed Hawks, I

was able to obtain my private pilot certificate. Not only did RTH help provide funds, but they also blessed me with professional mentors, in depth insights to different career paths in the field, team-building opportunities, and so much more. I had only dreamed of this success, and I was never quite sure how possible it was. There are those who dream what I had dreamt and still dream of, but there are those who may not feel that they will be accepted or that there is a place for them in aviation, because they find it so difficult to find those in their dream job who share their endeavor. After RTH gave their all to me, I now realize this is a giant cycle they created: a cycle of education, mentorship, and inspiration. I will not be the one to break it, because I know there are plenty like me out there who need support and need guidance.

Many like Jasper Harris, Jr. had to push boundaries and make their mark when no one else felt they could, because back then there was no support for those that didn't fit the biased qualifications of aerospace and aviation professionals, including African Americans. Harris as one of many pioneers showed us that aerospace and aviation can be for anyone with determination, even if society tells us it's not. Groups like RTH build off of that belief that we are all capable of success with the right tools.

That's why I volunteer and continue to grow my involvement and self-growth. Even as a Private Pilot currently, there is still so much to my story to write. With more experience, I will be able to give back more and more. Also being a recipient of the Red-Tailed Hawks' blessing, it's my duty to not just leave with what I have, but to give back into this cycle in order to inspire more and more who struggle to see their place in aviation. It's my duty to ensure my gains in experience, and that I also use those gains to help my community.