

## **Women Soar, You Soar Needs Mentors Like You!**

[http://www.airventure.org/attractions/women\\_soar.html](http://www.airventure.org/attractions/women_soar.html)

This information was provided by EAA about its Women Soar You Soar Program.

Are you ready to inspire the next generation to soar?! If so read on...

Women Soar, You Soar was founded in 2005 with the mission to engage, inspire, and educate young women in grades 9 through 12 pursue their dreams in aviation-related fields and beyond. The event occurs during EAA's AirVenture Oshkosh, and has grown from its humble beginnings of two days to what is now four full days of inspiration, education, mentorship and fun. For the past three years we have not only met our participant goals with attendees from around the globe, but have had waiting lists! The value and impact Women Soar, Your Soar has had on its alumni's lives is amazing. One alum is working at Lockheed-Martin's famed Skunk Works, another is now a sophomore at Texas A&M studying Aeronautical Engineering, and a third is a highly-sought after commercial flight instructor after graduating with a degree in Aviation. All credit Women Soar, Your Soar as being instrumental in setting them on their path to success. And this is just a sampling of the impact this great program has had! We inspire these dreams through a specialized program of activities focused on exploring career options, discovering new aspects of aviation, and inspiring high school-aged girls to inspiration and exposing them to the tools needed to reach their goals. We have worked closely with higher education experts from University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and Fox Valley Technical Institute to develop a specialized program which includes team building, hands-on workshops, mentor sessions, flight simulation, and other AirVenture activities. We have also had mentors present workshops based on their professional specialties which has been a very successful component of the program.

We have cultivated a robust scholarship program which supports the goals of Women Soar, Your Soar and carries the inspiration into the future for our lucky winners. Last year, seven scholarships were awarded, ranging from Space Camp to ground school/flight training to Air Academies. Three of our scholarships

were “performance-based” awards where the winner was nominated by the mentors based on their performance, participation, and attitude during Women Soar, Your Soar.

Women Soar, You Soar is a worthy and noble program – one that has impacted the lives of many young women. Since the inception of Women Soar, Your Soar more than 95 women have been invited to participate as mentors. Since 2007, a total of 12 successful young women, all Women Soar alumni, returned as Junior Mentors, offering participants the opportunity to interact with contemporary role models who are pursuing their dreams. A strong mentor candidate pool, from which each year’s mentors are selected, is crucial to the ongoing success of Women Soar.

Each year we have recruited successful women, like you, who have turned their dreams and aspirations into successful aviation-related careers. For those of you who are seeking to join the Women Soar, Your Soar Mentor Team for the first time, our motto is “If you Dream it, You can Do it!” Our goal has always been to offer the participants as many varied connections to the world of aviation as possible by showcasing multiple career-fields; airline pilot, military aviators, aviation medicine, aircraft maintenance, engineering, aviation journalism, business development, and aircraft sales to name just a few. This diversity in our mentors’ professional and personal experience has contributed greatly to the overall success of Women Soar, Your Soar.

As the program has grown, so has the organizational aspect of the program, and we have begun to formalize our grass-roots organization into formal processes that will ensure Women Soar, Your Soar is able to sustain its positive impact for future generations. One of the processes we have revised is our mentor recruitment and sustainment program. Last year, we requested all interested mentors participate in an application process and submit a curriculum vitae or résumé, along with personal and professional references. This year we are continuing to refine the application process and are again calling for mentor applications. Our committee will also be conducting interviews of successful applicants to ensure we are developing the synergy required to continue the overall success of the program and the benefit to our mentor volunteers.

For Women Soar, You Soar 2011 it is anticipated that no more than 20 Mentors and 10 Junior Mentors will be chosen. The application process consists of a

submitting an application, curriculum vitae or professional profile (including providing two references) for review and a personal interview. Applications will be received through March 15, 2011, with mentor selection to be completed no later than April 30, 2011.

In order to manage expectations, it is important to understand that Women Soar, Your Soar mentors are volunteers. Here are some basic points of information:

1. The program will be held from 1 pm Thursday, July 28 – 11 am Sunday, July 31, 2011. In addition, a Mentor Workshop will be held on Wednesday, July 27 at 4pm, followed by a Mentor Social and dinner. If you cannot attend the entire program, please let us know and we will address on a case by case basis.
2. Two one-week wrist bands for admission to EAA AirVenture Oshkosh will be provided for each mentor.
3. Travel and accommodations – we understand this is the biggest expense that faces mentors. We have been able to reduce this cost by offering the option of lodging in the UWO dorms during the program in double occupancy rooms (with other mentors), at the same rate charged to the girls (in 2010, the cost was \$35 per night per person, based on double occupancy). There are also a number of private homes available for rent for the week for mentor housing. If desired, we can help make leasing arrangements; however, due to our charter and budget, all expenses must be paid by the mentors.
4. During Women Soar, meals will be provided to all mentors/participants as part of the program. Water and snacks will be on site at all times and will “travel” with the girls.
5. UWO staff will serve as staff chaperones – one staff member assigned to each 10 girls – so that mentor time with the girls can be focused on relationship building.

Please let us know if you are interested in joining the Women Soar, Your Soar mentor pool and are interested in submitting an application, please send a request for an application to [Womensoar.EAA@gmail.com](mailto:Womensoar.EAA@gmail.com) . The opportunity to mentor the young women that participate in Women Soar, You Soar is one of the most rewarding and exhilarating experiences we have had. On behalf of the Women Soar Executive Committee, Elissa Lines, Audra Hoy, Kate Monnett, Brianna Obright, and ourselves, we hope that you will consider sharing your time, knowledge and passion in 2011!

You can visit the Women Soar website ([http://www.airventure.org/attractions/women\\_soar.html](http://www.airventure.org/attractions/women_soar.html)) for more information regarding the program, and/or feel free to contact us with any questions regarding the program and mentor participation.

Crissy Tonsi  
Mentor Co-Coordinator  
Women Soar, You Soar 2011  
[crissy@cermortin.com](mailto:crissy@cermortin.com)

Jill "Raggz" Long  
Mentor Co-Coordinator  
Women Soar, You Soar 2011  
[raggededge.us@gmail.com](mailto:raggededge.us@gmail.com)

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Ragged Edge Aviation  
[RaggedEdge.us@gmail.com](mailto:RaggedEdge.us@gmail.com)  
[www.RaggedEdge.us](http://www.RaggedEdge.us)