



# PROSPECTIVE VOLUNTEER PILOT QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

*Welcome to charitable public benefit flying! Thank you for your interest in Angel Flight Central.*

*Please check out our website at [www.angelflightcentral.org](http://www.angelflightcentral.org) for the most up-to-date information or give us a call at 866-569-9464.*

*AFC's mission is to serve people in need by arranging charitable flights for access to health care and for other humanitarian purposes. AFC primarily serves 10 states in the Mid and Upper Midwest: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Additional resources may be available.*

## **Where can I find the volunteer pilot requirements for Angel Flight Central?**

A complete list of volunteer pilot requirements is available on the **AFC Volunteer Pilot Application** in the "Pilot" section of the AFC website: [www.angelflightcentral.org](http://www.angelflightcentral.org). Each pilot "affirms" their currency annually & at the time of each flight.

Pilots who do not have the minimum hours to qualify may enjoy getting to know the AFC pilots in their community and flying right seat as a mission assistant or participating in ground volunteer activities.

Ground volunteers are always needed to "spread the word" about AFC in local communities, speak on behalf of AFC, distribute outreach literature and assist with special events. Friends and family are encouraged to join in!

## **Do I have to own an airplane?**

Pilots may use an airplane they have access to as long as the aircraft meets airworthiness and liability requirements. The pilot application lists minimum hours in make and model of aircraft.

## **What type of airplanes do most AFC pilots fly?**

The majority of pilots own or rent 4 or 6 place single-engine non-pressurized airplanes. Some pilots have access to twin-engine or jet/turbo prop planes. Information about each airplane that the pilot will be flying is entered on the application. Experimental & light/sport aircraft are not authorized to fly AFC passengers.

## **How far do volunteer pilots fly?**

Most flight legs are 250-300 NM. Flights above 300 NM may "link" with a 2<sup>nd</sup> pilot. Pilots may request multiple legs or to split longer legs. Total trips do not exceed 900-1,000 NM. For the safety and comfort of AFC pilots and passengers no more than 3 flight legs are scheduled on GA aircraft. Alternative transportation may be available for longer distances through business or commercial resources.

## **How are expenses handled?**

Pilots flying on behalf of AFC volunteer their time, airplane, fuel and any other costs associated with the flight. These expenses cannot be charged to or shared by the passenger(s) and are not funded by AFC under FAA regulations.

AFC is always assessing opportunities to legally defray the cost of public benefit flights. FBO's may offer fuel discounts and waive or reduce ground fees. Passengers are responsible for their own ground transportation and lodging.

## **Are flight expenses tax deductible?**

Yes. AFC is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit, tax exempt organization under Section 501(a) of the IRS tax code and incorporated in the state of Missouri in 1995. Contributions, including the cost of flying missions, are deductible on flights set up through AFC. Pilots "capture" any out-of-pocket expenses when they file their Mission Completion Report after each flight for their own tax record. If overnight lodging or meals are required as part of the flight, these expenses are deductible. Each pilot's tax situation is different; particularly if the pilot combines a charitable flight with a business trip. Pilots should consult a tax professional regarding deductible items and documentation needed for their specific situation.

## **What liability is associated with an angel flight?**

The AFC Liability Release is signed by each passenger flying on an AFC flight. This includes anyone who accompanies the pilot. Pilots execute the release and fax or mail it to the AFC office before boarding the airplane. Therefore the liability is no different than any other Part 91 flight involving passengers. As AFC flights are non-commercial; airplane liability insurance should cover these flights. Pilots should check with their insurance agent annually to see if coverage is adequate.

## **Does AFC require co-pilots or assistants on-board?**

AFC pilots must fly with a 2<sup>nd</sup> adult when transporting unaccompanied minors; below 18 year of age. A 2<sup>nd</sup> adult or co-pilot is not required on other flights. For safety reasons, a pilot may choose to regularly fly with a co-pilot.

## **What type of passengers can I expect to encounter?**

Passengers are screened for financial need or a compelling reason for long distance air transportation assistance. Some passengers may have an immune deficiency which does not allow them to fly commercially. A general aviation flight reduces the chance of infection to this passenger. Some passengers have life threatening illnesses such as cancer or heart disease. Others have conditions that require specialized treatment at distant locations from their home.

AFC pilots are made aware of a passenger's condition or compelling need for the flight. An AFC medical release is secured from the passenger's physician to assure the passenger is stable to fly and is physically capable to access the aircraft.

*"With your help, our angel Sarah will be well again,  
we just KNOW it."*

*Kevin & Charlotte, Parents of AFC Passenger Sarah*

Compassion flights assist families to access a loved one receiving treatment. Humanitarian flights may transport mother's milk for premature babies or children to special needs camps. Disaster response flights carry stable medical passengers, relocate families, or fly key personnel and small cargo for agencies providing disaster response during national, regional or local declared disasters.

### How do people request assistance from AFC?

Anyone seeking assistance may review the **Qualifying Criteria**, see **How it Works** and complete a **Request for Assistance** by accessing the "Passenger" section of the AFC website: [www.angelflightcentral.org](http://www.angelflightcentral.org). Passengers are encouraged to complete the on-line **Request for Assistance** form for the quickest turnaround time.

Social workers, case managers, physicians, organizations and patient hospitality houses, family or passengers themselves are among those who refer or request assistance on behalf of a person in need of long distance transportation.

Because of the significant donation of the cost of the flight by volunteer pilots or donors to the organization; AFC diligently assesses each request on a case-by-case basis to assure there is a legitimate need, the passenger qualifies for assistance and it is safe for pilots, passengers and companions to fly.

### How are passengers screened for assistance?

After thorough review of the information provided on the **Request for Assistance**, a coordinator calls the passenger to verify information and discuss the request. A series of questions are asked to determine the type of transportation most appropriate for each passenger and if AFC has the resources available for their specific request.

Financial need, medical stability, ability to board an aircraft and sit upright for the duration of the flight as well as passenger and luggage weight and number of companions are considered. Additionally the need for medical assistance on-board, a pressurized cabin or oxygen use is assessed by the coordinator while qualifying the passenger.

Providing a passenger continues to be in financial need and medically stable they may request subsequent flights providing AFC has resources available at the time of the request.

### Does AFC participate in Disaster Response?

Yes, AFC pilots, staff and ground volunteers participated in disaster response efforts following 9/11, during Katrina and Rita hurricanes, the Iowa floods and local disasters such as in Greensburg, KS.

AFC works with search and rescue teams, volunteer agencies and organizations to develop protocols to better serve the rapid response needs of disaster related flights. Typically; key personnel, small cargo, stable medical patients, and families needing to reunite or relocate have been assisted by AFC during times of crisis. AFC volunteers must be active members at the time of the response effort to provide volunteer assistance through the AFC organization.

### How do I become an AFC member?

Complete the **AFC Volunteer Pilot Application** then scan and email it to [request@angelflightcentral.org](mailto:request@angelflightcentral.org). Fax or mail is fine also. Be sure to include all the attachments requested on the application. Once your credentials have been reviewed and your application approved you will be notified and will receive the **AFC Volunteer Pilot Handbook** and additional instructions for completing your **Volunteer Pilot Orientation**.

Once you have completed orientation; your AFC Photo ID badge will be processed and you may request a flight. Please call if you have not heard from us or you have questions anytime during the application process.

### Will I be called for flights?

Most flight requests and pilot assignments occur through the flight coordination on-line system called AFIDS (Angel Flight Information Data System), however, please call us at any time if you have questions about a flight, want to discuss the routing, hand-off's, etc. We truly enjoy talking with each volunteer.

If pilots do not request particular flights, coordinators will call pilots in the area of the flight to see if they are available or send out an email blast to request assistance for a particular flight. We know that pilots tend to be busy people whether actively working or retired and we respect your time, If you are unavailable for a flight, not current for the conditions of the flight or feeling under the weather, please don't hesitate to let us know. **Safety for everyone comes first!**

Because AFC is fully funded by donations we value each dollar contributed. Communicating electronically helps keep our expenses low and helps divert funds to outreach materials to help "spread the word about AFC" to prospective passengers, referral sources and pilots.

### How can my friends and family be involved?

If you have friends, neighbors, colleagues or family that may be interested in helping us fulfill the mission of Angel Flight Central; please encourage them to review the "Volunteer" section of the AFC website. Volunteers who come with specific skills to contribute and are willing to grow opportunities for AFC will enjoy volunteering.

We value each pilot and ground volunteer and appreciate your time and talent that you bring to Angel Flight Central.

**Thank you for "giving hope wings."**

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