

A Brief History Of The Tuskegee Airmen

The legendary Tuskegee Airmen of WWII were dedicated, determined young men who enlisted to become America's first black military aviators. This, at a time when there were many people who thought that black men lacked intelligence, skill, courage and patriotism.

In the air, the Tuskegee fliers were distinguished



U.S. Army Signal Corps Via Ap F1
Cadets at the Basic and Advanced Flying School for Negro Air Corps Cadets stand at attention in this January 1942 photo from the Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Ala.

more by the color of their planes than the color of their skin. The red paint on the tail of their aircraft earned them the nicknames "Redtails" or "Red Angels" from fellow Allied pilots. German fighter pilots called them "Schwartzte Vogelmen-shen," which translates to "Black Birdmen." Their legend was created by becoming one of the most successful flying squadrons in American military history. Shattering racist stereotypes, they flew more than 15,000 sorties over North Africa and Europe during World War II, destroyed more than 250 enemy aircraft on the ground and 150 in the air and fiercely protected the American and Allied bombers they escorted on their missions.

From these roots, we shall build



Photo by Robert Horton

The Chicago Chapter of TAI
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THE CHICAGO CHAPTER OF TUSKEGEE AIRMEN



Mr. Bev Dunjill, President
Mr. Ken Rapier, 1st V.P.
Mr. Duane Hayden, 2nd V.P.



Our Mission: To Preserve The Legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen and Encourage Post-Secondary Education Among the Youth of our Community.

The Chicago Chapter of TAI
P.O. Box 19063
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Young Eagles Hotline:
312/409-5621
Web-Site: taichicago.org

Young Eagles

The Young Eagles is a program developed by the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) to introduce youth between the ages 7 to 17, to the exciting world of powered flight. The program includes a ground orientation to the principles of flight, an introduction to the aircraft's systems and controls, and, of course the highlight, an introductory flight where the student can experience the joy and excitement of flight first-hand. The Young Eagles program is fully insured and has an excellent safety record.

After each flight the child receives a special certificate signed by his or her pilot and the student's name is entered in the World's Largest Logbook at the EAA Air



Museum at EAA headquarters in Oshkosh, WI. The objective of the program is to introduce as many children as possible to the field of aviation. And in turn, this also helps us achieve our goal of encouraging teens to stay excited about school, working hard, following their dreams and perhaps becoming the next generation of America's pilots and aerospace professionals.

Our Young Eagles rallies are held the 2nd Saturday of every month at the Gary-Chicago International Airport. Flights usually begin at 9:00 am from our Headquarters located next to Gate 4.

For scheduling details, call our hotline at 312/409-5621 or for further information on this program, please contact our Young Eagles Co-Coordinator, Barbara Werner at:

barbwerner@prodigy.net

ACE Camp & The Gary Flight Academy

The ACE (Aviation Career Education) Camp at Lewis University is a "Residential" (overnight) camp in the Chicago / Bolingbrook area. The program is usually held in mid-late July and targets students between the ages of 13 - 18 who have earned a "C" grade point average. The cost for this program is \$350 which covers room, board, a plane ride and bus transportation to various locations including a major aviation event in Osh Kosh, WI. Also provided are supplies such as a t-shirts, kits to build rockets, etc.

We also sponsor a "non-residential" ACE Camp during most summers. This program is held at Wright College in Chicago and has a Day Camp type structure. The camp at Wright College costs \$155 since we don't have to incur any lodging expenses or provide as many meals.

For further information on either of these programs please contact the chapter's Chief Pilot Ken Rapier at:

skyking332nd@aol.com

Educational Assistance Program

Through our Educational Assistance Program (EAP) our chap-



ter grant's financial awards of \$1,000 and \$1,500 to students who demonstrate the qualities of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Applicants should possess the following values & characteristics:

- Vision of their own potential
- Commitment to excellence, perseverance and service
- Thirst for knowledge, personal growth and positive so-

cial change

- Honor and Integrity in actions and behaviors
- Respect for self, others and the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen.

For further information on this program please contact our EAP Chairperson, Mr. Alcus Cromartie at:

rocketmanalcus@AOL.com or Mr. C. Richardson

at: cmsrichardson@aol.com

Appearances & Presentations

Helping to preserve the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen by



telling their story at schools, corporate presentations and celebratory appearances is a primary outreach activity of our chapter. Interest in the history of the Tuskegee Airmen has continued to grow over the last few decades, as people have sought more information about these legendary aviators.

This is a subject often glossed over or completely overlooked in most textbooks and American History class lesson plans.

Interest in the Tuskegee Airmen has become even more pronounced since March 29th 2007 when over 300 surviving original Tuskegee Airmen received the Congressional Gold

