

Aviation Technician of the Year

Aviation Technicians are not only individuals who inspect and repair airframes, engines and electronics, but equally important, they affect aviation safety by reaching out to aircraft owners and junior technicians to provide mentoring, education and leadership. Technicians strengthen general aviation as an industry by acting as positive role models and promoting good citizenship among their employers, subordinates, and customers.

The Aviation Technician of the Year **MUST** be actively engaged as a technician. As an A&P/IA, he or she must meet the definition of “actively engaged” in FAA Order 8900.1 Volume 5 Chapter 5 Section 7 which states that he or she must have an active role in exercising the privileges of an A&P mechanic certificate, including inspection, overhaul, repair, preservation or replacement of parts on an aircraft, or supervision of those activities. Else, he or she must meet the definition of “actively employed” by an FAA-certified repair station, having an active role in exercising the privileges of the repair station certificate, including installation of avionics, repair, preservation or replacement of parts on an aircraft, or supervision of those activities. As a judge in this category, you may also award high scores for activities in management, consulting, mentoring or production.

The Aviation Technician of the Year **MUST** actively promote aviation safety and regulatory compliance, must possess extensive professional knowledge of acceptable methods, techniques and practices for inspection, installation and repair, and must have earned an excellent reputation in the aviation community. They must exhibit leadership qualities and have the ability to work and coordinate well with others. They serve as an example to others. Judges should award high scores for leadership activities.

The Aviation Technician of the Year **MUST** have a positive, professional working relationship with FAA personnel, particularly his Principal Inspector. The technician is often a liaison between aircraft owners and the FSDO and therefore, a good business relationship is a vital attribute. A technician who is an A&P/IA is required to hold a current FAA certificate. The technician may be designated by the FAA as a representative, (DAR/DME and/or FAAS Team Rep). Judges for this award should give significant weight to activities and letters of recommendation that demonstrate this strong relationship.

The most important attribute of the Aviation Technician of the Year is his or her outreach activities to share inspection, installation or repair safety-knowledge with and set an example for others. Your highest scores should go to those activities completed in the past five years that are beyond the strict scope of a technician’s job to influence aviation safety. This includes :

- Conducting/participating in aviation-safety activities in their organizations and at their airport.
- Offering aviation-safety knowledge to pilot/owner groups and events.
- Hosting and/or participating in local safety seminars.
- Participating in local safety committees.

General Aviation Awards Evaluation Guidelines

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- Aiding in the dissemination of changes to inspection, installation or repair regulations, Airworthiness Directives, service bulletins, malfunction and defect reports, and/or operational procedures.
- Identifying hazards or unsafe conditions and make recommendations.

An ATA is a valuable resource to the community, and because aviation is a dynamic and changing industry, the Aviation Technician of the Year **MUST** complete advanced training, certifications or college coursework. High scores should be awarded for activities completed in the past five years such as:

- Equipment manufacture's training, authorizations and seminars.
- WINGS credits, completion of NCATT AET certification and any available endorsements, AMT Awards, FAA Safety.gov courses with AMT credit or other self-study.
- Involvement—not just membership—in an aviation professional organization such as the Aircraft Electronics Association, PAMA and AMT Society, EAA, AOPA, and others.
- Attending professional meetings, workshops, seminars, and conference symposia.
- Attendance at airshows, tradeshow or aviation symposiums.
- Other aviation training, such as: pilot certifications, (Sport, Private, Commercial, Instrument, etc) FCC ratings, (GROL, Radar Endorsement, etc) avionics credentials (NCATT, etc.) and FAAS Team annual training, etc.

The Aviation Technician of the Year is a leader, providing service to the aviation community. High scores should be awarded for valuable activities completed in the past five years such as:

- Teaching and/or mentoring junior technicians or students
- Holding a leadership office in an aviation-organization or owner's group such as Cessna Owners Group, MMOPA, Bonanza Society, etc.
- Recommendations to improve inspection, installation or repair practices
- Designing specialized activities, tools and equipment or other functions unique to inspection, installation and repairs, etc
- Publishing newsletter / newspaper / magazine articles and books etc
- Contributions to aviation maintenance audio-visual educational materials (PowerPoints, CDs, DVDs)
- Contributions to aviation technician teaching materials
- Contributions to aviation technician Internet materials (websites, online courses, etc)
- Servings on aviation/airport boards, committees, and councils, etc

In the end, the Aviation Technician of the Year **MUST** be a uniquely qualified professional that you are proud to hold up as an example for others to emulate. A few questions to ask yourself ...

- If you were an aviation employer, would you hire the nominee?
- If you were an aircraft owner, would you want the nominee working on your plane?
- If you were in a position to recommend an ATA, would you recommend the nominee to your best friend or a family member?