

## **Flight Instructor of the Year**

Flight Instructors (CFIs) not only are individuals who teach flying, but equally important, they affect aviation safety by shaping the good safety habits of new pilots as well. CFIs strengthen general aviation as an industry by acting as positive role models and promoting good citizenship among their students. CFIs must actively promote aviation safety and possess professional knowledge, and must develop a good reputation in the aviation community. They must have the ability to work and coordinate well with others. They must exhibit leadership qualities. And CFI of the Year candidates must be held to high standards as an example for others. CFI of the Year candidates are also required to hold current pilot and flight instructor certificates.

The Flight Instructor of the Year **MUST** have a positive, professional working relationship with FAA personnel. The CFI is often a liaison between local pilots and the FSDO. The CFI may also be an FAA Designated Pilot Examiner (DPE) and/or a FAAS Team Rep. As a judge for this award, significantly more weight should be given to activities and letters of reference that demonstrate this strong relationship.

The Flight Instructor of the Year **MUST** be actively working as a flight instructor. Dual-given hours are preferred over a large number of Total Hours. Many define an “active CFI” as having accumulated at least 500 hours of dual-given over the past five years. Even a part-time CFI can qualify. Your highest scores should be awarded to an FAA Gold Seal Instructor, especially a Gold Seal earned in the previous five years.

A CFI gives FAA authorizations by means of required endorsements. Senior instructors, 141 Check Instructors and 142 Evaluators are active CFIs but they don’t always log a high volume of “dual given” hours. Endorsements are valued just as highly as dual-given hours. Give good consideration to a high volume of documented endorsements over the past five years, especially if “dual hours” is low. Include:

- WINGS endorsements
- Flight review, instrument proficiency (IPC) checks and sport pilot endorsements
- High performance, complex, high altitude and tailwheel endorsements
- Spin endorsements
- Endorsements for completing 141 Progress Checks, 142 Evaluations, FAA certificates and ratings

The Flight Instructor of the Year **MUST** be dedicated to aviation safety and support the largest general aviation safety initiative with the activities similar to those of a FAAS Team Representative. High scores should go to activities completed in the past five years including:

- Conducting/participating in safety activities in their organizations and at their airport.
- Hosting and/or participating in local safety seminars.
- Participating in local safety committees.
- Providing information and guidance on local flying conditions to transient pilots

- Aiding in the dissemination of changes to regulations, Airworthiness Directives, safety bulletins, malfunction and defect reports, and/or operational procedures.
- Providing individual remedial training and/or counseling on behalf of the FAA.
- Identifying hazards or unsafe conditions with regard to airmen, aircraft, airports, the national airspace system and make recommendations.
- Distributing educational materials, publicizing program events, and rendering other general support services.

Because a CFI should be a valuable resource to the community, and because aviation is a dynamic and changing industry, the Flight Instructor of the Year **MUST** complete advanced training, certifications or college coursework. Higher scores should be given to those who hold Master Instructor and other industry-specific accreditations. Your highest scores should be awarded for activities completed in the past five years such as:

- Any aviation training or education that refreshes or increases airman or instructional knowledge and skills, but that does NOT include instructor-certificate renewals. (Since all current CFIs are required to participate in such renewals)
- FAA DPE or FAASTeam Representative recurrent training, etc.
- Authorizations or accreditations as an equipment manufacture authorized instructor such as Cessna, Cirrus, MMOPA, Bonanza Society, and so on.
- Involvement—not just membership—in an aviation professional organization such as SAFE, NAFI, EAA, AOPA, and others.

A flight instructor is required to renew the certificate every 24 months, by one of three methods: FIRC, practical exam or activity. Each renewal method has its benefits. Your highest score should be awarded for a diverse renewal system; that is, when a nominee has used more than one renewal method over the past five years.

The Flight Instructor of the Year **MUST** be a leader and an entrepreneur, providing service to the aviation community. Your highest scores should be awarded for valuable activities completed in the past five years such as:

- Mentoring other CFIs
- Publishing newsletter / newspaper / magazine articles and books etc
- Producing aviation oriented audio-visual educational materials (PowerPoints, CDs, DVDs)
- Producing various aviation oriented teaching materials
- Producing aviation oriented Internet materials (websites, online courses, etc)
- Active in Civil Air Patrol (CAP), Scouts, Angel Flight, Air Lifeline, etc
- Servings on aviation/airport boards, committees, and councils, etc

In the end, a Flight Instructor of the Year **MUST** be a uniquely qualified professional that you are proud to hold up as an example for other flight instructors to emulate