

## **Tips for Strengthening Your AEMSF Application ( Notes taken from the AEMSF Application Tips Webinar)**

- Follow Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund Facebook Page for motivation - Dreams do come true! There is also a good powerpoint pinned on the front page with application tips.
- **Save your file as “Last Name First Name Fall (or Spring) (year) FW” as the file name, e.g**
- Earhart Amelia Spring 2024 FW. Files should be compressed less than 10 mb.
- refer to as AEMSF Spring/Fall First Wings Award
- Key grading points Essay and Letter of recommendation is majority of the score
- SWS AE Chair SOP [sws99s.org/section/pdf/chapterSOPforFlyNowand](https://www.sws99s.org/section/pdf/chapterSOPforFlyNowand)
- Use Grammarly to enhance.
- **99s is correct no apostrophe**
- Certificate instead of license and flight review instead of BFR
- Font 10-12
- If using the form, fill the whole page to make it easier to read, increase font size, add spaces etc.
- Don't recycle essays the trustees know, they want to see the progress since the last application
- Use new letters of recommendation.
- Essay - writing to convince: Thesis, aviation goal then list. Tell them your story.
- Key essay topics - 99s activity and volunteerism
- Immediate and future goals are clearly stated
- Realistic plan to achieve goals
- Challenges and setbacks you have faced
- Make your case for financial need
- **For Fly Now - Critical-** a statement of income including flight training budget and funding options must be presented. Because it is reimbursement-based and does not fund the entire certificate. Your score will be lowered without a clear funding plan stated for reaching your milestones. How many hours do you still need to reach your goals? What's the cost of those hours? Detail amount saved, budgeted from income or planned loan, etc. This is how I will get to my milestones...
- Creative Writing: think of the hook to engage your readers. tell your story and sell yourself.
- Avoid repeated I am, I feel,
- Write each question down in a word document and answer each
- Name, scholarship name and the year written on each page if it is not obvious.
- Intro - body - closing
- **Financial need- substantiate your need**
- **Most successful applicants explain how they will pay for the rest of the rating**
- Is training expensive in your area
- High cost of living
- Medical debt
- Student loan debt
- Other financial obligations
- List income and expenses and help the trustees understand your situation.-
- Know how much your rating will cost you to reach your goal
- Ask people to help support your goal - pay for your 99s membership, add funds to your flying fund for birthdays etc.
- **Red Flags:**
- lots of hours and little progress
- Few hours and little progress over a long period
- Are you repeating the same lessons over and over?
- If you have read flags explain what has changed now.

- The polished application - read and follow directions
- Excellent readability of attachments - make sure they are clear and include both sides of ids.
- No resumes, awards or additional filler.
- Logbook - year in upper left corner, put total in pencil if you have not completed the sheet and put totals on the bottom of the sheet in pencil for that page.
- Sign your logbok.
- Have all documents face up - dont make the judges turn the screens to read your log book.
- Have logbook pages in order. Ideally put the left and right pages next to each other left to right. If they cant fit then put Left page and then under it Right page.
- Letters of Rec:
- Don't recycle for AE scholarships
- Address the letter, signed and dated to: AEMSF Trustees and Judges
- Have multiple people review for you
- Managing the file
- You can organize it in a Google Drive then get a single file ready to pdf
- google drive allows you to resize and turn attachments
- there are free services available to pdf:
- PDF it - [www.ILOVEPDF.com](http://www.ILOVEPDF.com)
- pdfsan or pdfsam?
- [tools.pdfforge.org](http://tools.pdfforge.org)
- 
- <https://tools.pdfforge.org/>
  - On Windows, use the [PDF Merger & Splitter](#) by AnywaySoft, available through the [Microsoft](#) Store.
  - On Mac, you can combine PDFs with a built-in tool found in Preview. Instructions from [Apple Support](#). on Windows - pdf Merger & Splitter by anywaysoft through the Microsfot store
  - If you have a Google user name/email, you can use <https://drive.google.com/> to create your application.
  - Create your essay and attachment files in Drive. Just insert images from your computer or smartphone into your document. Drive allows image resizing/rotation for optimal placement
  - The Drive App (Apple or Android) also allows you to create PDFs from images on your smartphone which can then be combined with your other app PDFs via a browser extension, online utility or Adobe.on MAC you can combine pdfs with a built in tool found in preview. See apple support for instructions
  - The app extension "PDF Mergy" for Google Drive allows you to combine any PDFs you upload with one you created in Drive
  - The completed, merged file can then be downloaded as a single PDF file --->

Check and check again before you send

**Use Grammarly -it's a godsend!**

#### The Chair:

- look at every page and critique it
- can make changes with the applicant in the 2 weeks we have between submission and chair submission
- Can improve essay and LOR, financial plan, etc
- Does her essay follow the guidelines presented?

- Include specific figures for training costs and their budget and funding plans in the essay with a realistic plan to complete the private pilot within 18months
- Don't rubber stamp the application - give suggestions

### **Chapter Letter of Recommendation**

- write the questions out in a document and answer each question
- enhance her story
- strong insightful
- has she been an active member
- how did your chapter decide to submit this application
- was a vote taken
- Goal - what has she accomplished towards her goal? how realistic is her goal? what are her opportunities for advancement in aviation?
- Financial - Has she established a clear financial need?
- How does her funding relate to her requirements for completion and to rates in your region?
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Resources:

Southwest section 99s scholarship - tips for applying [www.sws99s.org](http://www.sws99s.org)

San Fernando Valley 99s "Ceci's Tips" - comprehensive aviation scholarship list  
[www.sf99s.org/education.php](http://www.sf99s.org/education.php)

List of scholarships for men and women: [www.flightscholarship.info](http://www.flightscholarship.info)

Scholarship application tips powerpoint slides  
[tinyurl.com/AEMSftips](http://tinyurl.com/AEMSftips)

also listed on the 99s scholarship fund facebook it is pinned to the top page