

Anderson Bloemers – from FLIGHT NIGHT to Pilot

Anderson was our first FLIGHT NIGHT success story. He was the first student to fly our Redbird simulator, about one day after it was assembled and running. He went on to pursue his dream of becoming involved in aviation and ultimately a Naval Aviator. Anderson helped Flight Path set up the second X-Plane VR simulator and assisted when he could as the Flight Night program grew. He earned his Private Pilot Certificate in January of 2021 and is now studying Mechanical Engineering Technologies at Purdue. He hopes to become a naval aviator after completing Navy ROTC at Purdue.

Thank you Anderson for your contribution to Flight Nights and best wishes for your future studies and flights!

Click on the links below for the full article, more photos, and his video interview.



Anderson and Jeff talk about the weather before takeoff



Anderson getting some flying hours

As far back as he can remember, Anderson always wanted to be a pilot. From tiny tot to teenager, he would come alive at every aviation event or airshow he attended. It was clear from very early on that aviation would be in his future. Along his path to flight, his family became involved in the activities at Park Township Airport. He and his Boy Scout troop took on multiple projects there including Anderson's Eagle Scout project of installing the T-33 jet memorial brickwork. His mother, Wendy, became the Airport Operations Manager. Anderson took full advantage of time spent at the airport - listening to the stories of local pilots, helping with airplane repairs, and forming friendships that led to airplane rides which further cemented his love of flight.

The airport management group, now known as Flight Path, wanted to do more than just manage the airport. They wanted to create a program to introduce young people to aviation. The program was to include flying flight simulators, touring and sitting in real airplanes, and interacting with pilots and other aviation professionals. All in the hopes of launching local youth on their own individual flight paths.

As the "Flight Night" program was being developed, Anderson helped get things off the ground by assisting with the set-up of the simulators, being the first official student through the program, and ultimately helping during Flight Night events. He continued to fly with local pilots and when not in an airplane he practiced his

skills on the flight simulators. In July 2020, he officially started his flight training, flew solo that August, and completed his flight hours earning his private pilot's license in January of 2021 at age 17. Currently, Anderson is attending Purdue University where he is studying Mechanical Engineering Technologies and is a Midshipman in the NROTC. He hopes to someday fly for the U.S. Navy.

Anderson's determination to fly started early in his life thanks, in part, to his parents' interest in the field. However, many other young people have little exposure to aviation. The Flight Path Flight Night program offers the opportunity to see, hear, and get hands on with what aviation is all about. We offer a chance to try something new, perhaps something never considered before.

Flight Path is pleased to offer this free program to middle and high school students, located at the West Michigan Regional Airport in the Flight Level Flight Training hangar. Flight Path is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization and operates on donations from local benefactors and help from volunteers.

SIGN UP on the Flight Night page.

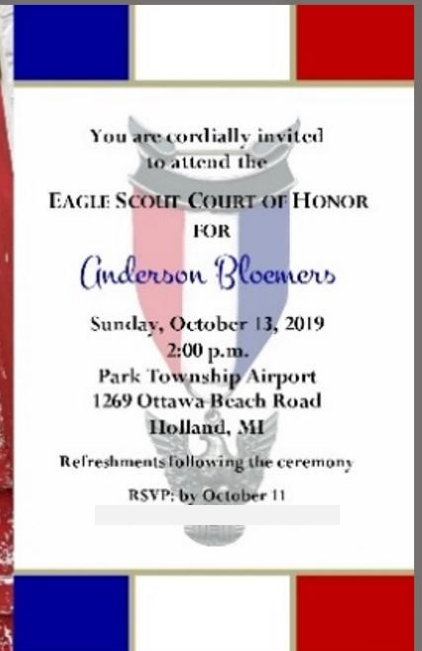
The Flight Night program is endorsed by Anderson, the first Flight Night student to become a pilot!

MORE PHOTOS BELOW



The love of aviation started young!





**Anderson at his Eagle Scout project T-33 memorial
at the Park Township Airport**



Early Flight Night simulator work



Anderson's senior photo shows his interest



Flying with Ed Albers and Flight Path President Jeff Vos



And with anyone else with a cool airplane!



First flight lesson July 2020



First Solo flight Aug 2020



Getting flying time



After successful check ride Jan 2021

Private Pilot Anderson now at Purdue



Anderson talks about and endorses the FLIGHT NIGHT program