

Local group encouraging others to explore aviation

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Members of the EAA chapter own everything from small aircraft built on their own to historic airplanes like this Cessna that originally came to Iowa from Georgia.



CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa — The local Corridor chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association is making a push to involve more people in aviation and encourage a young generation to be pilots.

"There is a pilot shortage so getting kids exposed to it so they have the ability to make it a profession and fly for business jets and airlines there are so many applications of being a professional pilot that are needed," Justin Cook the EAA chapter 33 president said.

The EAA has almost 200000 members and 900 local chapter world wide. One of the key aspects of their work is home built aircraft that can come in kits or be completely scratch build. The organization encourages people to try flying, building and restoring aircraft at any level they chose to do it on. The Cedar Rapids chapter has members who have owned and restored historic aircraft for years and many new members who are just getting started in aviation.

"It's the relationships, meeting different people working with them and learning different things," John Tvedtd, who is currently building his own aircraft said. "They call it education and recreation, we are getting closer to the point we are flying it's been very rewarding."

Chapter 33 is one of the most active ones in the Midwest and covers an area from Vinton to Monticello, all the way down to Tipton and Iowa city. One of the most important initiatives is the young eagles program for kids. It's completely free and it gives them the opportunity to fly for free and experience what it feels like to be a pilot.

"A lot of kids and families, they go on a commercial flight on vacation but they never see this side of things and that they are interested in aviation," Cook said. "We are able to get them involved and get them to the airport and it's not just something they drive by."

If you are interested in learning more about the program you can [click here](#).