



AVIATION MUSEUM OF SANTA PAULA

aviationmuseumofsantapaula.org 800 E. Santa Maria St. Santa Paula, CA 93060 (805) 525-1109

President's 2024 Annual Address

The Aviation Museum of Santa Paula is very active with 21 kids and five parent volunteers in the Santa Paula Aviation Career Exploring Program (SP-ACE). The SP-ACE members meet twice a month for training on various topics like airport safety, Santa Paula Airport history, welding, riveting, airplane readying for annual maintenance, the basics of aviation, and first aid just to name a few. The SP-ACE members also support each First Sunday by staffing the gift shop, setting up stanchions, providing information and tours to our guests.

Each First Sunday we work with the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) and several volunteer pilots to provide over 15-20 first flights to kids interested in aviation. To date, the EAA pilots have provided about 1,000 first flights in just under 6 years. Last year, the SP-ACE kids participated in the the Santa Paula Labor Day Parade, and most recently, the Santa Paula Christmas Parade. What a great experience to be able to walk in a parade representing your interest and potential future profession. We also had a visit from TV Station KCAL9!

<https://youtu.be/rNfAM3oIn5E?si=BRIWZuh5zhq9zBaC>

Since the inception of the program in the Spring of 2018, over 8,000 hours have been volunteered by all. We are primarily funded by donations and our annual Roaring 20's dinner and dance which will occur on September 20, 2025.

We will reach a huge milestone this year by being officially affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) as an Aviation Explorer Post. Being affiliated with BSA will provide additional funding and training opportunities as well as provide a well-established training curriculum including merit badges and other recognition further developing these young professionals.

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our new board members Jennifer Lacbain and Richard Rudman. Both members have been very active supporters of the museum and we are thankful they are stepping in to assist at the board level. Mike Dewey has also temporarily volunteered for the Board in a fundraising capacity.

The link or the QR code below will take you directly to our donation page.

<https://tinyurl.com/4m7szath>

If you would like more information, or want to volunteer, please email us at amszp@verizon.net.

On behalf of the entire volunteer Board of Directors I thank you in advance for your generosity!

Yours truly,

**Kevin R. Nida, Board President
Aviation Museum of Santa Paula**

