



Wisconsin Aviation Museum Inc

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Discovery Learning Center



Member AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS

Museum Address: Fond du Lac County Airport, N6308 Rolling Meadows Dr. ♦ Fond du Lac, WI 54935
Email: jzorn@fdl.net ♦ Website: www.fdl.net/wami ♦ IRS 501 (c)(3) tax exempt museum

Discovery

The Wisconsin Aviation Museum Inc. was started by a group of aviation enthusiasts who wanted to share their interest in flying and aircraft with the surrounding community and area visitors.

Currently, we have a small assembly of aircraft memorabilia, airplanes and the beginning of a great library.

Though the museum is geared toward visitors of all ages and expertise, we also plan on working very closely with the local EAA chapter running Young Eagles and First Flight programs for area youth.

The Discovery Learning Center became a natural outgrowth of the museum that will provide additional educational opportunities for young people, as well as, adults. The learning possibilities may include sponsoring initial ground schooling, maintenance seminars and hands-on work for perspective aviators to learn and grow with aviation.

Our goal is to be self-sufficient through donations, fund raising events, admission fees and museum memberships. Currently, we are running a fund raising drive that will go towards building two permanent facilities in which to house our displays.

Through our exhibits and educational opportunities we hope that our visitors will come to better appreciate the history of aviation and the impact it has on our future.

Tax deductible donations to our building fund are always welcome.

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Discovery Learning Center

The Learning Center will provide a diverse scope in the areas of tourism, education and economic development.

The Discovery Learning Center will:

- Focus on youth in order to stimulate their interest in the technologies related to aerospace development.
- Attract visitors and tourists based on the growing worldwide interest in aerospace technology and history.
- Provide interactive exhibits for both entertainment and student operational training aids.
- Provide an area to showcase local and international aerospace companies.
- Provide classroom and reference/research facilities for use by educational institutions.
- Provide for the development of programs for people of all ages, with the input and cooperation of local community groups.
- Offer the facility to schools and industry for conventions and conferences.

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Education

The facility will be a leader in linking industry with a qualified workforce.

The Discovery Learning Center will provide:

- Introductory programs where those interested in obtaining information on aerospace companies and where those companies foresee a future need for trained personnel. The facility will also provide information on colleges and universities that offer aerospace related programs.
- Children's programs will encourage boys and girls to become interested in math and science, as well as, aviation.
- Youth programs, including Civil Air Patrol, will instill pride and responsibility into our leaders of the future.
- A Space Camp where people of all ages can have fun and develop teamwork skills.
- Programs where seniors can share their lifetime of knowledge and skill with others.
- Aircraft restoration projects where volunteers can help preserve a part of aviation history.
- Building projects open to volunteers who are interested in building aircraft.
- Guest speakers where visitors can have a first hand experience with pioneers and leaders in the aviation industry.
- Research facilities, including a library, where visitors can obtain everything from aircraft service manuals to photographs.

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Economic Development

The facility will be another promotional tool in attracting new industry to the region.

The Discovery Learning Center will:

- Develop a strong relationship with the aerospace/aviation industry worldwide.
- Identify future training requirements within the industry.
- Create a link to existing training facilities in the area and worldwide.
- Provide the facility to area agencies for promotional use and conferences.
- Encourage corporations to use the facility for research and development.
- Promote the facility to attract trade shows and conventions.

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Tourism

The Discovery Learning Center will help to strengthen the important role of developing tourism in Fond du Lac County.

Our link to tourism will include:

- Attracting travelers worldwide who plan their vacations to include visiting aviation/aerospace related facilities.
- Link with similar facilities around the area to develop aerospace tours.
- Airline and military reunions eager to find a location near other attractions.
- Providing another visitation sight for bus tours.
- Promoting weeklong workshops and aerospace camps that will increase revenue to area accommodations and restaurants.
- Being only 15 miles south of Oshkosh, Wisconsin and EAA Headquarters, we provide another aviation related facility to the area.

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History

As a young organization, Wisconsin Aviation Museum Inc. has begun collecting airplanes, aircraft artifacts and memorabilia. Ultimately, most items will be on display. At this time, however, only a small portion of the collection is available for viewing.

Some of the items in our collection include:

- Artifacts from a B17 that crashed in the Porcupine Mountains in Ontonagon, Michigan on April 19, 1944.
- Van's Aircraft RV-6 Projects
Donated by: Mark Brown, Witmore Lake MI and
Laurens Ackerman, Wilmette, IL
- Taylor Monoplane
Built and donated by Robert & Barbara Ladd, Mukwonago, WI
First flight by Paul Pobereznyin 1967
- 1946 Ercoupe
Long term loan in Memory of Ren Blakely, Fond du Lac, WI
- Woodstock Glider, A Jim Maulpin design,
Built and donated by Philip Hart, Hartsville, SC
- Pietenpol AirCramper
Built and donated by Sandy Love, Cumming, GA
- Steen Skybolt
Built and donated by Fred Hawkins, Omaha, NE
- A collection of photographs and racing trophies from Steve Wittman, an aviation pioneer. (Wittman Field, in Oshkosh, is named after him.)
- Jane's Encyclopedia of Airplanes, plus a library of other aviation related resources.
- Many other aviation related items
- Three buildings located on airport property for storage, restoration, and partial viewing.

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