

Young Astronauts Program

The Young Astronauts Program of Metropolitan Columbus is an educational program which focuses on the teaching of math and science to middle school youth through aviation-based activities. Elementary students with strong interest and aptitude may be selected to participate as well.



The program is designed to elevate the interest and skill of students in mathematics, science, and technology. Activities provide basic information and knowledge necessary to begin preparation for a variety of careers.

For over 12 years, Columbus public school students were served by the YAP in a joint effort of private/public partnerships. Expanding on the original design, the YAP is now a demonstration project through a community settlement house, Central Community House. The YAP introduces students to aviation role models and community mentors who are licensed pilots, science specialists and educators.



Theory based instruction is balanced with hands-on activities for the following modules:

- The four forces of flight
- Flight controls and aerodynamics
- Flight instruments and simulator
- Flight safety
- Rockets, helicopter and rotary crafts

Instructors are pilots, navigators, air refueling technicians, rocketry specialists and other science field professionals.

Lessons encompass skill development areas such as critical thinking, problem analysis, and problem solving. Students construct models and may be able to test them and/or enter team competitions. Maps, navigational instruments, rocketry kits and other real life equipment are used for instruction to reinforce the excitement of science experimentation, the value of career exploration and the significance of developing team membership and leadership skills.



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