

# Connecting Madison Youth from Underrepresented Communities to Aviation



"It is a rare opportunity for a young person to have a hands-on experience within the field of aviation from a dedicated group of aviation professionals."

- Luke's father David Hanauer

## 1 Camp Willa

Camp Willa is a FREE 5-day educational experience for youth who would rarely have the opportunity for an upclose aviation experience at both Madison airports including facility tours (Terminal, Air Traffic Control, Military, General Aviation) and presentations that cover STEM and STEAM topics. Youth are exposed to a myriad of aviation career fields and the people who work in them. The week culminates in a one-on-one flight experience for each youth which results in wide smiles and often sustained interest in pursuing aviation.

## 2 Madison Youth Aviation Club

The Madison Youth Aviation Club is our "next step" initiative where many Camp Willa attendees are invited to continue pursuing their interests by attending monthly events with varied themes such as; including tours of local aviation companies like UW Med Flight, museum visits, and career panels with local aviation professionals. We also encourage youth club members to volunteer at local aviation events



"I really enjoyed the experience, especially talking to the pilots. They offered amazing advice and great ideas that I have explored since camp."

- Sophia Ruder

## 3 Wings to Fly

In the fall of 2023, a new program called "Wings to Fly" will now be part of the Willa Brown Aviation Academy. This program has introduced flying to 81 youth over the past two years, giving them hands-on flight experience at no cost. We will be offering several daylong events throughout the flying season, working with community partners to identify interested youth who might benefit from this opportunity. This program aligns well with our mission to identify and encourage youth from underrepresented communities to explore new possibilities.



**"WBAA has helped me a lot by giving me hands on experience flying, meeting new people in the world of aviation and giving me the ability to learn about so many career opportunities in the field."**

**- Lamara**

## About Us:

Our namesake is Willa Beatrice Brown, a trailblazing African-American aviator who was the first woman of color to earn a U.S. private pilots license and a mechanic's license in 1938.

The WBAA Board was founded by current and former airline pilots. Our board members and staff are current aviation professionals, enthusiasts, and community members. All are all volunteers and receive no compensation. Our strategic plan includes raising funds to provide flight training scholarships for youth.

## Our Mission:

The Willa Brown Aviation Academy, Inc. (WBAA) is a Madison, Wisconsin-based, non-profit (501c3), educational organization that seeks to develop confidence and character in youth from underrepresented communities using aviation as a learning discipline.

### For more information

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## Please Donate:

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