



NEWS RELEASE

June 17, 2013

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***Women Can Fly* at Hampton Roads Executive Airport on June 22nd**

Richmond – A special one day event to introduce women and girls to aviation will take place at Hampton Roads Executive Airport near Norfolk, Virginia on Saturday, June 22, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Women Can Fly will feature a variety of fun and educational activities that will culminate in a free introductory flight in a general aviation aircraft for participants.

This is the second in a series of three *Women Can Fly* events taking place in the Commonwealth of Virginia during the month of June. The first event, held on June 8th at the Warrenton-Fauquier Airport in Northern Virginia, was a great success with close to 130 girls and women receiving free airplane rides.

Currently, women make up only 6% of the U. S. pilot population. Increasing aviation awareness among women and girls and bringing more women into aviation as both recreational pilots and as aviation professionals is vital to the long term health of the aviation industry. *Women Can Fly* will provide a fun, no pressure environment for women to ask questions, learn, and experience the wonder of flight.

Throughout the day, as they wait for their turn to take a flight, women and girls in attendance will have the opportunity to visit, and possibly sit in, aircraft on display and to talk with their pilots. They will also be able to attend classroom sessions and seminars about how airplanes fly, how to become a pilot and other aviation topics. Additionally they can interact with exhibitors from aviation clubs and flight schools; and maybe even pilot a flight simulator.

A *Women Can Fly* website (www.womencanfly.org) has been established with detailed information about the event and allows women and girls who wish to take a flight to register.

Women Can Fly is sponsored by the Ninety-Nines, Inc. (International Organization of Women Pilots), Warrenton Fauquier Airport, Hampton Roads Executive Airport, Liberty University, Freedom Aviation, and the Virginia Department of Aviation.

The Virginia Department of Aviation's (DOAV) vision is to become the standard of excellence among state aviation agencies and make the Virginia aviation system the model air transportation system providing Virginia communities economic development opportunities and convenient access to the National air transportation system. DOAV's mission is to cultivate an advanced aviation system that is safe, secure and provides for economic development; promote aviation education and awareness; and provide the safest and most efficient flight services for the Commonwealth leadership and state agencies.

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