

From: Dale Guenter
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To: Review Committee
Flyin Ryan Foundation Scholarship

February 1 2019

Re: Chris Begemann, application for Flyin Ryan Foundation Scholarship

It is my pleasure to provide a strong recommendation for Chris Begemann for your scholarship. He is truly a remarkable human being. I have known Chris almost 2 years. I have known him as a fellow member of SOSA gliding club, and as a student I have instructed in gliding. I have been a power and glider pilot since 1978 and am a gliding instructor. My “day job” is family physician and teacher of medicine. I have been around a lot of students and a lot of young people.

Aviation has been a passion for Chris for a long time. The day I took his registration at the gliding club, it was already apparent he was a different sort of guy. He had already done a lot of research, knew a lot about flying and about what we do in gliding, and had many questions about everything that was going on at the club. He was keen to learn from anything and everything that was going. He was a sponge. Not only did he soak up all that he could about flying. He also asked questions and offered help with anything going on behind the scenes at the club—aircraft repairs, rigging and de-rigging, and general club operations. Nothing was too small to learn from.

Flying is adventure—not many young people pursue this path. Gliding is an even bigger adventure. Staying airborne without any motor and defying gravity means every flight has its own unique set of challenges, and success comes only with courage, persistence and focus.

Chris started his glider pilot training right away. Not only did he have to learn a whole body of new knowledge and master many new skills, he also had to be creative to find ways to pay for his passion. He managed to do this and also to go through the training more quickly than most students. Even at his age, he was one of the most accomplished pilots I have known by the time he took his licensing exam.

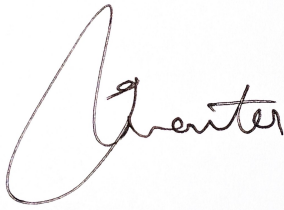
He is a superb pilot. He learns very quickly. He thinks analytically. He remembers well. He has courage to try new things, and the sense to be safe. He has focus and dedication at a level we rarely see in students. He challenges rules and norms that

don't seem to make sense, always thinking about the ultimate purpose, and then carries on respectful and inquisitive dialogue to understand better.

Chris has courage, initiative, focus and persistence. He respects all people and treats everyone with respect. He is a positive influence on the culture of the gliding club, and this does not go unnoticed by the members. Chris is a good citizen, and makes a remarkable impact for his age.

I think that Chris demonstrates the core values of Flyin Ryan very well, and more than that, he is eager to develop those qualities further. He is a natural adventurer. I would be hard pressed to think of anyone more deserving of this scholarship. Chris will put it to great use. He has managed to get a start in aviation through gliding—the least expensive and most effective way to get a start. Now he wants to go another big step in flying, and it's a step that could be not only a fantastic form of recreation in the future, but could set him up well to be an excellent instructor, and even to have a career in aviation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale Guenter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D".

Dale Guenter