

# Cumberland Area Festival Helps Aspiring Young Pilots Soar

Greater Cumberland Regional Airport, Wiley Ford, WV – September 29, 2019

Written by: **Sara Mullins**  
Photography by: **Katie Kight**  
*unless otherwise noted*

The “**Wings and Wheels**” Fly-In Festival will return for a 5<sup>th</sup> year on September 29 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Greater Cumberland Regional Airport in Wiley Ford, WV. This event, presented by Chapter 426 of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) in partnership with the airport, supports the Chapter’s annual goal of sending an area youth to the EAA Air Academy’s Young Eagle aviation camp in Oshkosh, WI. This residential program allows campers from ages 12 to 18 to explore the field of flight through instruction, hands-on activities, and a flight in an airplane and a helicopter. All applicants must write a letter of interest, fill out an application, and experience a flight. The Chapter covers all costs for each attendee.

“Of the 15 young people sponsored by Chapter 426 who have completed the EAA Air Academy program, at least 10 are pilots or are employed in the aviation field,” says Chapter 426 member Katie Kight. “This year’s attendee, Cole O’Neal, is chomping at the bit after waiting several years.”

The Festival welcomes cars, motorcycles and airplanes – new and old – and will feature a Medivac on display. Other attractions include an AYCE (All You Can Eat) Pancake Breakfast, 50-50 Raffle, music by the popular local band Night Traveler, and vendors offering assorted



**Katie and Rick Kight, coordinators of the Wings and Wheels Fly-In Festival.**  
*Photo by Lance C. Bell*

items such as glassware art, jewelry and, appropriately, model aircraft. Youths from ages 8 to 17 will have a chance to enjoy a Young Eagle ride in the sky, depending on weather and pilot available.

Wings of Appreciation will be this year’s special guest, who bring our Wounded Warriors out of Virginia. “These guys are awesome,” Katie says. “They really look forward to this.”

Special events and fundraising efforts continue beyond the Festival to support the selected camper. Chapter 426 holds AYCE breakfasts from April through October on



the last Sunday of the month, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Chapter House located at the airport. The Community Trust Foundation contributes \$1,000 every year in memory of the late David Summerfield, former director of the Summerfield Aviation flight school and in memory of the late Earl and Sherri Wilson.

For more information or to make a donation, contact Katie Kight at **301-268-2624** or The Community Trust Foundation at **301-876-9172**. And you might want to put those AYCE breakfast dates on your calendar.



Above, left to right: EAA members, Rick and Katie Kight; Melissa O’Neal; Curtis O’Neal; Cole O’Neal (this year’s Young Eagles sponsored camper to Oshkosh, WI); Kristin White, Young Eagles Coordinator and Max White, pilot.

Left: Special guests at the Fly-In — Wings of Appreciation and Wounded Warriors.

Bottom left: Youth from ages 8 – 17 sign up for a Young Eagle’s ride in the sky.



### EAA Chapter 426 All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfasts



*All Breakfasts — 9 am to 1 pm*

- April 28, 2019
- May 26, 2019
- June 30, 2019
- July 28, 2019
- August 25, 2019
- September 29, 2019 & Fly-In Festival
- October 27, 2019

