



Division of Finance & Management

Office of Air, Rail & Transit

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TO: South Dakota Aeronautics Commission

FROM: Jack Dokken, Office of Aeronautics

DATE: August 20, 2026

SUBJECT: Consideration of Black Hills Airport Request for Support Fly-in Event/ Scholarship

The City of Spearfish requests the Aeronautics Commission's consideration of \$1,000 in support for the 2026 Black Hills Fly-In held on September 17–20, 2026 at the Spearfish Airport (SPF).

This annual event attracts aviators from across South Dakota and neighboring states, offering a unique opportunity to showcase the beauty of the Black Hills region and to promote general aviation to the public. The Fly-In will feature a variety of activities designed to engage both pilots and the public, including:

- Daily Fly-Outs to regional airports
- Saturday, September 19 Events:
 - 200+ Car Show
 - STOL (Short Takeoff and Landing) Demonstration
 - Airshow
 - Concerts and Food Trucks
 - Helicopter Rides for the public
 - Vendor show

The City of Spearfish requests \$1,000 in Commission funding to help offset event expenses. Funding left over will be used to create a scholarship opportunity for an aviation maintenance professional or pilot seeking a career in aviation.

The Aeronautics Commission granted \$1,000 for the Spearfish Fly-in in 2025.



South Dakota Aeronautics Commission

700 East Broadway Ave.

Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Subject : Sponsorship Request – Black Hills FlyIn

The Spearfish/Black Hills Airport is proud to announce that we hosted the Black Hills Fly-In. We are honored to build on this tradition and are committed to building upon the success of this fantastic aviation event that we had in the previous year. Our committee is eager to take this event to the next level and are excited for the opportunity to promote aviation in the State of South Dakota.

This Fly-In attracts aviators from across South Dakota and neighboring states, showcasing the beauty of our Black Hills region and promoting aviation to the public.

Event Highlights:

- **Dates:** September 17th – 20th, 2026
- **Activities:**
 - Daily Fly-Outs to regional airports
 - **Saturday, September 19th:**
 - 200+ Car Show
 - STOL Demonstration
 - Air Show
 - Concerts
 - Food Trucks
 - Airplane Rides
 - Helicopter Rides
 - Vendor show

Eagle Aviation, LLC. at Black Hills Airport

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Our goal is not only to bring aviators together but also to engage the broader community and promote the value of aviation in our state. Given that the mission of the South Dakota Aeronautics Commission is to support and expand aviation in South Dakota, we would be honored to partner with the commission and request a sponsorship of \$1,000 to help support this year's event. Your support would directly contribute to making this a successful and impactful event for the aviation community and public alike.

As part of our commitment to giving back and growing the aviation community in South Dakota, we would like to establish a scholarship using the excess funds generated from this year's Black Hills Fly-In. Our intent is to create a scholarship opportunity for a South Dakota resident pursuing a career in aviation. This scholarship would be open to either a maintenance professional or a pilot who is actively seeking training or certification in their field.

We believe this initiative aligns with the broader mission of promoting and supporting aviation across our state, and we are excited to help contribute to the development of the next generation of aviation professionals.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and to further discussing this opportunity at the August meeting.

Thank you,

Channing Wagner

Board Member, Black Hills FlyIn

