

Whiteman Airport

Re-envisioning Whiteman Airport: A Community-Driven Process

Open House – March 3 & 5, 2022

Comment Form:

Name: Mark

Comments:

Keep the Airport! ...for its youth programs, search & rescue, fire spotting and many other emergency services. ☺

Comment Form:

Name: Ronnie

Comments:

How many Latino and African American people from Pacoima employed at the Whiteman Airport? For the purposes of community awareness and diversity, equity and inclusion, the County should find out and make this information available and known.

I understand this is a “private” airport or business (what I’ve been told), but if this business cares about social equity, there should be no problem being transparent and making this information accessible and mentioned during meetings for better opportunities to all, not just some.

Comment Form:

Name: Andres

Comments:

The process seems to be biased, in favor of the purported benefits the airport has to offer. Glossing over the fatal crashes and airplane crash on the train tracks on San Fernando & Osborne as merely “local concerned” is a mischaracterization of the public safety situation the airport presents to the surrounding business & residential community that shares the space with the airport.

I’m wondering how this process will attempt to build a false narrative that favors the airport’s efforts to clean up its act.

Having an open house at the airport feels like a public relations stunt. I’d like to see the airport group step outside of their walled garden & engage in community outreach. By outreach, I mean partner with community organizations, host community outreach events that really list the public safety issues that the airport poses to businesses & residents.

Comment Form:

Name: Sandy

Comment:

Please be as water-wise as possible. Govt funds subsidize the upgrade of your sprinkler timer.

CAC Members,

March 5, 2022

My name is Burton I both live and work in Arleta, on Osborne Street, within 1 mile of the Whiteman Airport facility.

I know that you have heard comments from other people who work directly in contact with programs at Whiteman Airport and who are in support of keep it and its programs intact.

As I local resident of Arleta, which shares the same Zip Code with Pacoima, please allow me to add my comments in support of keeping Whiteman and its programs intact, as I also share in the interests of this community.

One of the programs there that I was personally introduced to a number of years ago, and visited again last month is the

- **Young Eagles Program**

- Young Eagle flights require prior registration & parental permission.

- Since 1992, more than 2.2 million Young Eagles have enjoyed a flight through the program at various small airports (more than 9,000 from Whiteman Airport alone. Large airports are too busy and so cannot accommodate such programs.) Young Eagles have been registered in more than 90 different countries and have been flown by more than 42,000 volunteer pilots.

Here is a partial quote about the dignity behind the purpose of those who are seeking to inspire young people to aspire to do interesting and greater things during their lifetime:

(The small airport system) (*quote*) "supports a variety of educational initiatives and training opportunities that inspire students through exploration and innovation. Together with airport businesses, local educators and community partners, we work to advance the development of interest for an educated, dedicated workforce of young students pursuing a career in (various aspects of) the airline and aerospace industry in the decades to come." (*end quote*)

Whiteman Airport is a general aviation airport in the northeast San Fernando Valley community of Pacoima, in the city of Los Angeles.

The airport was founded as Whiteman Air Park in 1946 on a farm by pilot Marvin Whiteman Sr. as a non-tower controlled, private airport.

Whiteman is now operated by the **County of Los Angeles**, is publicly available to general aviation aircraft 24-hours a day seven days a week and is home to over 600 based aircraft and to numerous aviation-related businesses. Low-cost training for aviation certification is available here.

Here are a two Whiteman programs that I only recently heard about:

Whiteman Airport serves as a home-base for pilots who participate in a program called **Angel Flight** – providing flights for patients in need, who require medical services available to them only at distant locations or returning them home after medical procedures.

How much does it cost to fly with Angel Flight? **There is no cost.** Their service is absolutely FREE! They are a non-profit organization with over 1,000 volunteer pilots [out of municipal airports, like Whiteman] who provide transportation in their own private or rented aircraft.

"The Ninety-Nines" An international organization of licensed women pilots and those with student pilot certificates, was founded in 1929. Amelia Earhart was elected the first President of "Ninety-Nines". Member pilots are also located at Whiteman Airport.

Youth Organizations & Opportunities

The (small) County airports are home to numerous youth-oriented organizations dedicated to providing local youth with low cost flight training, youth education and emergency services, free orientation flights, field trips and community service opportunities among others.

Following are some of the provided youth-oriented organizations and programs located at the few, small County airports such as Whiteman:

Air Explorer Kittyhawk Squadron 3

Provide low cost flight training for youth.

- Whiteman Airport - Air Explorer Program - Squadron 3

Aviation Explorer Program

Provide flight training, and opportunities to explore careers in aviation.

- Whiteman Airport - San Fernando Valley 99s Post 747
- Compton/Woodley Airport - in Compton (the next-nearest local airport with such a program.)

Civil Air Patrol

The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is a national volunteer organization. Its various squadrons are civilian auxiliary units of the United States Air Force and are dedicated to providing aerospace education, emergency services and cadet operations.

- Whiteman Airport CAP Squadron 35

Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Young Eagles Program

Provides aviation education opportunities and free aircraft orientation flights for youth.

- Whiteman Airport - Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Young Eagles Program
- Again, Compton/Woodley Airport - is the next nearest airport hosting this program.

• About your local Chapter 40 Young Eagle Flights

- Each month, the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 40, out of Whiteman Airport, offers free flights to youth, our Young Eagles ages 8 through 17, (weather permitting).
- The (though similar programs previously existed here) the EAA Young Eagles program was officially launched in 1992 to give interested young people an opportunity to go flying in a general aviation airplane. These flights are offered free of charge and are made possible through the generosity of EAA member pilots & volunteers.

• Young Eagles Overview

- (weather permitting) Chapter 40 flies Young Eagles at Whiteman Airport in the San Fernando Valley on the fourth Saturday of each month. Activities begin at 10:00 am. Young Eagle registrants meet at Whiteman Airport, meeting and receiving orientation with pilots & other volunteers in the picnic area outside the building Civil Air Patrol building.

• Young Eagles Registration

- Registrations for Young Eagle flights require prior parental permission.
- Since 1992, more than 2.2 million Young Eagles have enjoyed a flight through the program at various small airports (over 9,000 from Whiteman Airport alone. Large airports are too busy and so cannot accommodate such programs.) Young Eagles have been registered in more than 90 different countries and have been flown by more than 42,000 volunteer pilots.

An partial quote about the dignity behind the purpose who are seeking to inspire young people to aspire to do interesting and greater things:

(The small airport system) "supports a variety of educational initiatives and training opportunities that inspire students through exploration and innovation. Together with airport businesses, local educators and community partners, we work to advance the development of interest for an educated, dedicated workforce of young students pursuing a career in (various aspects of) the airline and aerospace industry in the decades to come."

A recent televised news piece ran on the KTLA –Channel 5 news, on April 24, 2021; highlighting yet another part of the youth-oriented programs offered at Whiteman Airport.

(I'm quoting from part of the script):

Young aviation enthusiasts were hard at work Saturday building an aircraft that they will eventually learn to fly from the San Fernando Valley.

A nonprofit group dedicated to the hobby and science of aircraft building (is hosting an on-going) youth aviation outreach event at the Whiteman Airport in Pacoima, where kids learn(ed) to build a two-seater airplane called 'The Spirit of Los Angeles.'

The small zenith plane (kit) that the children are building was designed by a French engineer, Chris Heintz, who helped develop the supersonic Concorde jetliner.

Once 'The Spirit of Los Angeles is built, the kids who learned to build it will someday learn to fly it."

"Flying is the most incredible sensation... The most important thing what we do here is, we share the flight, and we share those 'magic' (moments of flying) with kids," said Bill Berle, director of development for the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), Chapter 40 based in the San Fernando Valley.

"When you get to be the one in the airplane, when the whole world opens up (a new dimension) to a kid and they realize that their world is a lot bigger than (just) their neighborhood around the airport, that's a 'magic moment'." (end quote)

The program is not only teaching children technical skills for building aircraft, but is also building confidence for flying.

Such community-serving programs and opportunities are not available at many of the big airports. Because of the long-standing history of Whiteman Airport, here in Pacoima, these kinds of opportunities are available for you __& for your children, right next door.

Another program that I recently heard about, which is hosted by some of the pilots out of Whiteman airport is the "Angel Flights" program. Pilots volunteer to air-shuttle patients to distant areas where they will receive critical (& sometimes life-saving) medical care. The pilots provide this service at their own cost, as a service of compassion to people in our community in need of such a service. I personally work in a local community service organization with a woman whose own sister received the life-saving help provided by an Angel Flights pilot.

Whiteman Airport also serves as a base of operations for emergency services for the Civil Air Patrol, for the Fire Department (air & ground), and as a staging-area for FEMA during times of emergency in this area of the City of Los Angeles.

This airport was established for, and will continue to stand, as a positive resource for the whole San Fernando Valley, by providing emergency services and programs which "inspire to aspire" the youth and adults for the improvement of our community

Don't be distracted by rhetoric designed to cover an underlying factor:
Special-interest Developers have their own eyes on this big block of property, waiting to jump-in with their own big plans that will make themselves rich -- by first shutting-down and taking-away Whiteman Airport, (since 1946) a long-standing icon and resource in the San Fernando Valley.

CAC committee, please consider and find plans to improve and expand the resources at Whiteman Airport, not take it away.

Thank you for your consideration,

Burton
community resident

Again, thank you.