



2026 SCHOLARSHIP OFFERING
Finger Lakes Chapter of the Ninety-Nines, Inc.
International Organization of Women Pilots
Scholarship Application Deadline is April 14th, 2026

Purpose

The 2026 Finger Lakes Chapter Scholarship will be awarded to an active female pilot or female student pilot residing in the Finger Lakes Region or Western New York consisting of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Chemung, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Niagara, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates Counties. The Scholarship can be used for primary or advanced training to advance her flight ambitions. Membership in the Ninety-Nines is not required at the time of application. However, membership in either the Finger Lakes or Western New York Chapter of the Ninety-Nines is required when the scholarship is awarded. Membership must be maintained at a minimum through May 2027.

Selection Process

Any female pilot or female student pilot living in the New York counties listed above is eligible to apply for the 2026 Scholarship. To apply, submit the completed scholarship application form, including all required documentation, a personal essay and two recommendation letters to the Scholarship Chair of the Finger Lakes Chapter no later than **April 14th, 2026**.

The Scholarship committee, comprised of both Ninety-Nines and active members of the aviation community with no connection to the Ninety-Nines, will review the applications and determine the recipient. Applicant goals, expectations, and anticipated future impact on the aviation community will be the criteria used to determine the recipient. The Scholarship recipient will be notified by **April 30th, 2026**.

Application Content

Applicant must make a statement of financial need for completion of her goal and demonstrate that she is committed to achieving it by having a plan in place to reach her goal. Applicant must discuss her goal, the steps left to achieve it (take the written, x hours solo, x hours cross-country etc.), the cost of training per hour where she flies, hours remaining to meet the goal, her current limiting financial obligations, her funding options, and her timeline to achieve it without a scholarship. This should be an essential part of the essay. Be clear and concise, especially about funding and budget plans.

Award

The 2026 Finger Lakes Chapter Scholarship is \$3,500 to be awarded to one applicant. Receipts for covered flight expenses must be dated between May 1, 2026, and April 30, 2027. Receipts of flight expenses paid or incurred must be submitted to the Finger Lakes Chapter Scholarship Chair, Wendy Zimmerman at wostrow@hotmail.com for payment approval. Allowed expenses include aircraft rental, flight instruction, flight instruction fuel expense, check ride expense for the DPE, and fee for a written exam. Submitted receipts must be accompanied by a copy of the logbook showing instruction given and signed off by the instructor, if applicable. Receipts must be signed by the student.



Personal Essay Requirements

Please attach an essay (not exceeding one page, one side only) and include the following elements:

- Tell us about yourself, your activities in aviation and participation, if any, in The Ninety-Nines.
- Tell us how you have financed your training and education so far. Make a statement of financial need for completion of this training. This should make up the bulk of your essay.
- Opportunities desired with rating sought and your future goals.
- Any other information that would be helpful to the Scholarship committee in making their decision.

Application Requirements

Please submit application packet as **one file**. Include:

- The signed and dated application form.
- Your personal essay signed and dated.
- Pilot Certificate and Medical Certificate if required for rating sought. Copy of the front and back of the certificates on one (1) page. **(You must have at least a Student Pilot Certificate to apply.)**
- Two signed and dated Letters of Recommendation: one from someone familiar with your flying experience, and the other a character reference (non-aviation). These letters may not be written by a family member and may not exceed one page, one side only.
- A copy of the results of your FAA Written Exam, if applicable.
- A copy of your last logbook page. Please note, one logbook page is both left and right pages (all columns) in the logbook.



**Finger Lakes Chapter of the Ninety-Nines, Inc.
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To apply, no later than **April 14th**, 2026, submit the completed application form and all required documents to **Wendy Zimmerman, Finger Lakes Chapter Scholarship Chair, at Email: wostrow@hotmail.com**. The application will be disqualified if it is received after April 14th, 2026.

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Email _____ Phone number _____

Airman Certificate # _____ Date issued _____

Pilot certificate sought _____ Category _____

Flight school and instructor name _____

Have you ever had an aviation related accident, incident or violation? Please circle Yes No
If yes, please provide an attachment to explain.

Passed FAA knowledge test? Yes No Have you flown your first solo flight? Yes No

Total flight hours _____ Hours flown in the last 12 months _____

Medical Class _____ Date of medical _____

Neither the Finger Lakes Chapter of The Ninety Nines, Inc., the NY-NJ Section of The Ninety Nines, Inc., nor their members, agents or representatives are responsible for the quality of any training received with this scholarship, nor for any accident, incident, or any other event which may occur while the recipient of this scholarship is performing flight training or activities relating thereto, and recipient agrees to sign a hold-harmless agreement in favor of The Ninety Nines, Inc. International Organization of Women Pilots, its Sections and Chapters, upon receipt of the scholarship and before any flight is made. I declare under penalty of perjury that the information I have given is true and correct, and that I meet the requirements for this scholarship.

Signature _____ Date _____