



Tampa Bay Aviation Association (TBAA) Scholarship Program

The Betty Skelton gala *(Girls Achieving Leadership in Aviation)* *Scholarship*

The inaugural GALA fundraising event held in March 2022 commemorated the 75th anniversary of the first All Woman Air Show hosted at Peter O. Knight Airport in 1949. The special celebration raised scholarship money for young women in the Tampa Bay area to pursue an education in aviation. Generous donations made by significant sponsors of the event were used to fund the scholarship. This annual event celebrates women in aviation past, present and future by continuing to raise funds each year for this important cause. The GALA Scholarship Fund is named after a local aviation trailblazer, Betty Skelton. Known as "The First Lady of Firsts", she began her aviation career at Peter O. Knight Airport (TPF) in the 1940s. She flew aerobatics and raced at the first All Woman Air Show in 1949 to help raise awareness of women in aviation after WWII. She was an international aerobatics champion and later became a professional racecar driver for Chevrolet. Betty broke more aviation and automotive records than anyone else in history. Her biplane, "Little Stinker", hangs in the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, DC.

Application Opens: July 15, 2022 and closes August 31, 2022.

Application Review Period: August 31, 2022 through September 15, 2022.

Awarded: September 24, 2022 at the Women in Aviation International's, Girls In Aviation Day, held at the Sheltair Hangar, Tampa International Airport.

Award Amount: \$1,000 and up; the number of awards will vary based on applications received.

Betty Skelton, gala Scholarship Overview and Requirements:

Scholarships may be applied for online through the TBAA website: www.myTBAA.org
Students must plan to pursue an aerospace or aviation-related major at an accredited college or university or may pursue a pilot certificate. Applicants must show leadership potential, and a desire to achieve high-level careers in aviation.

Please submit your application with all necessary documents:

- One page essay describing the vision for your future in aviation. Be creative!
- List of school accomplishments and community service (please include your GPA)
- Two letters of reference
- Applicant must be 16-25 years of age at the time of submission
- Applicant must reside in the Tampa Bay Area