



WELCOME TO GIRLS IN AVIATION DAY!

2017

AVIATION FOR *Girls*™



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AND TIPS TO BE
THE BEST YOU!

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Women in Aviation
INTERNATIONAL
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Some people think you must wear an expensive suit to be professional. Not true. Others think you have to “blend in” or “be one of the guys.” Not at all. And, some may think that “professionalism” means being tough, uncompromising, or strict. Nope. So, what is professionalism?

The word “professionalism” has two core attributes. 1) Embrace the opportunity to learn; and 2) share the knowledge. Let’s look at each more closely.

What is Professionalism?

by Kimberly Perkins



Being a professional means embracing any opportunity to learn and improve. For a professional athlete, that may mean practicing new techniques for speed or agility. For a computer programmer, that may mean learning a new way to code. And, for the professional pilot or other aviation career, this means studying your textbooks and educational magazines, attending seminars, and being open-minded to learn from fellow pilots. It's important to acknowledge that you don't know everything.

Aviation is an intriguing industry because no matter which aircraft you fly or maintain, or even design, wherever you are in your career, there is always a new technology to learn. Two government agencies that oversee aviation, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) instills important safety measures, and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) proposes new practices.

The exciting thing about aviation is that we can learn from people that work in different parts of the industry. For example, mechanics understand aircraft systems, air traffic controllers can teach us about air traffic congestion and improving the flow of aircraft, and pilots understand operational information. All these pieces of information provide the foundation for making the safest decisions. Don't pass on an opportunity to attend seminars and aviation meetings, read your textbooks, and communicate amongst your fellow professionals.

Working in a Collaborative Way

If I can leave you with one piece of advice, here it is: Share the knowledge! One of the most important aspects of being a professional is working in a collaborative way. We must learn from each other and our past experiences.

Expand your network and community to strengthen your decisionmaking process. Nobody works alone. Even as a solo pilot, you are not really "solo." When you take a solo flight, you are making your decisions partially based on the knowledge acquired from your flight instructor. You talk to someone to fuel the airplane, gather weather information, and get your clearance with air traffic control (ATC). In aviation, we are always working with others. While it is important to learn from others, it is equally important to share what you have learned. Take a role, big or small, and help others become professional too.

Remember, no matter how old you are professionalism is a mindset. It is a desire to learn and share knowledge. Safety is very important throughout the aviation industry. The safety culture, procedures, and policy in practice derive from collective thoughts and experiences. We must always strive to do better and learn more. This happens when we acknowledge what we don't know and reach out in a collaborative way to find the answer. The formation of best practices and policy is rooted in a strong safety culture, which stems directly from collective thought, an aspiration to learn, and collaborative effort.

Embrace the opportunity to learn, share the knowledge, and be a professional! ✈️

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