

Young Eagles event planned April 21 at airport

By DK McDONALD The Daily News

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BULLHEAD CITY — Young people have the opportunity to take a free airplane ride during Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport's 2018 Young Eagles Day.

"The Experimental Aircraft Association Young Eagles program is an opportunity for children and pilots to share the enjoyment of the aviation field," said Joey O'Rourke, LBIA assistant airport director.

The free flights are available for youth between the ages of 8 and 17; parents must accompany their child for registration, which begins at 8:45 a.m., Saturday, April 21 at Signature Flight Support, FBO, 2550 Laughlin View Drive.

Flights begin at 9 a.m.

The EAA Young Eagles Program was launched in 1992 to give interested young people an opportunity to fly in a general aviation airplane. The flights are free, made possible by the generosity of EAA volunteers.

"The Kingman EAA Chapter 765 has been our partner in Young Eagles Day since our first event and we're delighted to have them with us again this year," said Jeremy Keating, director of the Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport. "The pilots volunteer their time and their aircraft."

Last year 87 young people flew with the airport's Young Eagles Day.

"We'd love to have even more fly this year," O'Rourke said. "It's great for parents to see their children overjoyed by their flight and if they are aviation enthusiasts themselves, also enjoy the event."

Young Eagles Day also will offer children and adults the opportunity to see LBIA Fire Department's engine, O'Rourke said.

Since 1992, more than 2 million children have become Young Eagles with a flight through the program; the experience opens more opportunities to participate, either through an online ground school, the EAA Air Academy or EAA's many scholarships.

For more information on the Young Eagles program, visit the official EAA Young Eagles website at www.young eagles.org.

"We love doing this event," Keating said. "Not only does it give young people an introduction to aviation, it's a lot of fun for everyone involved."

The airport is currently looking for local businesses and organizations to sponsor a Young Eagle; for more information about sponsorship, call O'Rourke at 928-754-2134 or by email at JORourke@FlyIFP.com.

For information about Young Eagles Day at LBIA, call 928-754-2134.