



USHPA SAFE PILOT AWARD APPLICATION

United States Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association, Inc.
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Pilot Name _____ USHPA # _____ Award Level _____

Based on having logged _____ consecutive safe flights between _____ and _____.
(# of Flights) (Start Date) (End Date)

Check one: **Hang Gliding** **Paragliding**

I certify that during the period of time shown above, I flew in a safe manner, I logged every flight I made, and I did not incur any injury as a result of hang gliding/paragliding which is required (or which to a prudent person would clearly indicate the need for) treatment by a licensed medical professional.

Pilot Signature

USHPA #

Date

Witnessing Members' Statement

Read instructions on reverse. Three USHPA member signatures required.

I certify that I have personally known the above named applicant during the period of time stated on this application, that I have examined their log book which lists the flights indicated for the time period indicated on this application, and that to the best of my knowledge the applicant's statements on this application qualifying him/her for the USHPA Safe Pilot Award are true.

_____/_____/_____
(Member Signature/Printed Name) (USHPA #) (Date)

_____/_____/_____
(Member Signature/Printed Name) (USHPA #) (Date)

_____/_____/_____
(Member Signature/Printed Name) (USHPA #) (Date)

USHPA Director's Statement

Read instructions on reverse.

I certify that I am currently a USHPA Regional, At-Large, Honorary, or Executive Director. And that I have examined the log book of the above named applicant for the period shown above on this application. I believe that the statements made on this application qualifying this applicant for the Award indicated are true, and I submit this application with approval for the Award indicated.

_____/_____/_____
(Director's Signature/Printed Name) (USHPA #) (Date)

USHPA SAFE PILOT AWARD PROGRAM

by Mike Meier

The USHPA Safe Pilot Award Program is underway. Following this article is the award application form. To apply for the award, simply photocopy the application and follow the instructions on the form. Any pilot who averages six or more flights a week should now be approaching the 100flight mark required for the bronze award.

The mechanics of the program have been designed to be as simple as possible. The application process requires minimal documentation. This is for two reasons-to encourage pilots to participate and to minimize the administrative burden on the USHPA office staff. This simplification also opens the door to the possibility of abuse of the system. There is a somewhat fine line to be tread here. If pilots who crash and avoid injury only by virtue of extraordinary good fortune are given safe pilot awards, it undermines the credibility and effectiveness of the award system. On the other hand, if pilots who consistently fly without incurring injury are denied the award for reasons of local politics, or because their flying "style" offends their more conservative peers, then the system also suffers a loss of credibility and value. I'm an idealist. I would like to think that a pilot who crashes his glider, and who knows he should have been seriously injured but by extreme good luck wasn't, will consider that flight as an unsafe one, and start his count over at zero. On the other hand, everyone can probably expect to bust up a glider in a flying mishap once in awhile, and not every minor crash carries the likelihood or implication of serious injury or possible fatality.

Ultimately survival is the key criterion here.

I would also like to think that a regional director, when considering an application from a pilot whose own personal limitations for safe flying extend beyond those of the director himself, would recognize that decisions about safe practices in flying are, and must be, personal decisions, and would not deny an application based only on such a personal difference of opinion. By the same token, I don't feel the program can require a director to approve an application for a pilot whom the director felt was clearly undeserving of an award for safe flying, just because the pilot had somehow managed to avoid a serious injury. Please note that the application

form contains the provision for such a denial on the part of the director, and for an avenue of appeal by the pilot.

There is one other clarification I would like to make about the mechanics of the program. Each pilot will be eligible for only one award at each level. If you earn a bronze award, and then have an unsafe flight, and then make another 100 consecutive safe flights, you will not get another bronze award; you will merely be one-third of your way toward your silver award.

Fly safely, and log your safe flights.

USHPA SAFE PILOT AWARD

The levels of the USHPA Safe Pilot Award are as follows:

AWARD	Consecutive Safe Flights
Bronze Award	100
Silver Award	300
Gold Award	500
1st Diamond	1,000
2nd Diamond	2,000
3rd Diamond	3,000
4th Diamond	4,000
5th Diamond	5,000

A SAFE FLIGHT is a flight which includes a launch (beginning from a full stop) and a landing (ending in a*complete arrest of forward motion) which does not result in any injury to the pilot which requires (or would normally require, or would clearly indicate the need for) treatment by a licensed medical professional. Only logged flights occurring on or after August 1, 1988, where the log entry contains the date, location, and duration of the flight, may be counted towards the award. Any flight involving injury as described above, whether or not it is logged, terminates a string of consecutive safe flights, and re-starts the count of consecutive safe flights at zero.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING FOR THE USHPA SAFE PILOT AWARD

1) Complete the applicant's statement on the reverse of this form, listing your name, the award for which you are applying, and the date of the first and last flights which qualify you for this award.

2) After completing the applicant's statement, have three USHPA members who have known you personally during the time period shown on your application, examine your log book for the period shown on the application, read the instructions below, and sign the witnessing statement.

3) Submit this application and your log book to a USHPA director for review and approval.

INSTRUCTIONS TO WITNESSES

Read carefully the applicant's statement in application for the USHPA safe pilot award, and examine the applicant's log book for the period indicated on the application. Your signature on this form represents your statement that you believe the applicant does in fact qualify for the award on the basis of having made the number of consecutive safe flights (as defined above) listed. You need not have witnessed any or all of the flights indicated, however, you should not sign the form if you have any doubt that the indicated number of consecutive safe flights were made.

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE USHPA DIRECTOR

Read carefully the applicant's statement in application for the USHPA safe pilot award, the witnesses signatures, and examine the applicant's log book for the period indicated on the application. Your signature on this form is the final approval for the applicant to receive the award indicated; do not approve the application if you do not feel the pilot qualifies. If you decide to approve the application, sign it and send it directly to the USHPA office. If you decline to approve the application, please make a brief written statement of your reasons for non-approval. Forward a copy of the application and your statement to the USHPA, and return the original application and your original statement to the applicant. The applicant will then have the right to apply for the award on an "appeal basis" directly to the USHPA safety and training committee.