

**Soaring Society of America, Inc.**

**Master Instructor Cross-Country Program**

**Program Guide**

**Introduction**

The Master Cross-Country Instructor Program was initiated in response to member demands for better access to cross-country instruction. If these demands are to be met, there are two primary requirements, (a) a supply of available active instructors with the knowledge and skills to give cross-country instruction based on this program's syllabus and (b) organizations willing to offer cross-country camps and clinics where pilots can obtain the knowledge and skills needed to soar cross-country with reasonable expectation of safety and success.

The SSA Instructor (SSAI) program, administered by the Soaring Safety Foundation (SSF) has been serving the US training community for many decades. Only an SSAI may administer the coveted A, B, C, and Bronze Badges, and must hold a Bronze Badge (or better) themselves.

The Master Instructor Cross-Country Program offers an upgraded "Master" designation to qualified CFI's already in the SSAI program, and is administered by the Soaring Safety Foundation Trustees, who appoint a SSA Chief Master Instructor as the program manager.

This Program Guide sets out certain qualifications required of current SSAIs to be considered for designation as Master Cross-Country Instructors, conditions for renewal of the 'Master Cross-Country Instructor' designation and requirements relating to recognized and approved cross-country camps.

The training syllabus is included in the Master Program Guide. All SSAI "Master" Instructors must utilize the training procedures outlined in the SSA Master Program Guide training syllabus.

This Program Guide also allows for designating a limited number of Cross-Country Coaches who are not FAA Certified flight instructors but nevertheless possess the experience, skills and ability to share knowledge essential to safe cross country soaring. Designation of the title Cross-Country Coach is based upon individual consideration of the person's qualifications by the SSA Chief Master Instructor.

## **Application For Designation**

**Prerequisites for consideration of the designation *Master Cross-Country Instructor* are:**

- Be a current SSA Instructor (SSAI).
- Be a current CFIG and have held the FAA CFIG certification for not less than 24 months preceding application.
- Have a completed FAI Silver Badge (or higher).
- Have logged a minimum of 25 hours solo cross-country time in gliders on flights over a distance of at least 25 nautical miles.

**In addition each applicant must accomplish and document the following tasks every 24 calendar months:**

Task 1. **Submit an accurate application** to the SSA Chief Master Instructor on the prescribed form (Form 1).

Task 2. **Attend a Soaring Safety Foundation Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic (FIRC) within the preceding 36 months** of submitting the application, initial designation or renewal, for your Master Cross-Country Instructor designation. "Attend" means registered attendance for the full clinic with certificate of completion, or as a guest speaker on an approved course topic during the SSF FIRC.

Task 3. **Administer at least 3 Bronze Badge tests in the preceding 24 months.**

Task 4. **Log at least 5 hours of flight instruction in Cross-Country techniques in the 24 months preceding your application**, initial or renewal, using the Master Instructor Cross-Country Guide as your syllabus.

Task 5. **Supply Documentation of Continuing Education.** Submit a summary of your activities as a cross country instructor, with documentation, which may include the following examples:

- a. Attendance at clinics or seminars where cross country flying skills are discussed as primary topics.
- b. Development of educational presentations, videos, lectures, or other published media acceptable to the SSA Chief Master Instructor,
- c. Authorship of published articles on cross country soaring.
- d. Participation as a pilot in a SSA Sanctioned US Regional or National Contest, in the preceding 24 months of the date of application.

- e. Demonstration of significant leadership by mentoring of cross country students, organizing a cross country “camp”, clinic or seminar.
- f. Satisfactory completion of a Recognized Instructor Course. This is a course designed to train SSAI’s to teach cross-country soaring. (see *Recognized Instructor Courses and Recognized Student Camps* section below).

The criteria for continuing education by attendance at a Recognized Cross-Country Instructor Course are:

- Be an SSA Instructor (SSAI)
  - Be a current US CFG and have held the CFG certificate for not less than 24 months preceding the start of the Course.
  - Hold SSA Bronze and FAI Silver badges.
  - Have a minimum of 25 hours logged solo cross-country time in gliders on flights over a distance of at least 25 nautical miles.
- g. Participation as an instructor at a Recognized Student Camp under the supervision of a Master Cross-Country Instructor. This is a camp designed to teach novice pilots how to fly cross-country. (see *Recognized Instructor Courses and Recognized Student Camps* section below).

The criteria for continuing education by instructing at a Recognized Student Cross-Country Camp are:

- Be an SSA Instructor (SSAI).
- Be a current US CFG and have held the CFG certificate for not less than 24 months before start of the Camp.
- Hold SSA Bronze and FAI Silver badges.
- Have a minimum of 50 hours logged solo cross-country time in gliders on flights over a distance of at least 25 nautical miles.
- Have given ground and flight instruction at a Recognized Student Camp under the supervision of a Master Cross-Country Instructor.

After completing the tasks listed above, with the required supporting documentation, the SSA Chief Master Instructor will then considered the applicant for the designation of Master Cross-Country Instructor.

An SSAI who is designated as a Master Cross-Country Instructor will receive a Master Cross-Country Instructor Certificate from the SSA Chief Master Instructor. The Master designation will be valid until the end of the 24 month from the month of designation. Only during this term may the SSAI use the title “Master Cross-Country Instructor”.

## **Renewal of Designation for a Master Cross-Country Instructor**

The designation of Master Cross-Country Instructor is for 24 months after approval by the SSA Chief Master Instructor. Renewal is not automatic, nor will notices be mailed by SSA or SSF, so renewal must be initiated by the SSAI. All of the criteria listed for the initial designation must again be met. Continuing Education is important, so consider attending SSF FIRC's, Seminars and Cross Country Camps during the 24 months before your term expires.

Application for renewal must be made to the SSA on the prescribed form (Form 1), along with support documentation. Forms can be found on the Soaring Safety Foundation website: [www.soaringsafety.org](http://www.soaringsafety.org)

Renewal will be for 24 months after the month in which application was approved by the SSA Chief Master Instructor.

**Direct Appointment:** An exceptionally qualified and active SSA Instructor (SSAI) may be considered for designation as an Master Cross-Country Instructor by direct appointment by the SSA Chief Master Instructor, if accurate documentation is submitted. An individual SSAI who is mentored by a current Master Instructor may also earn consideration for designation. All SSAI "Master" Instructors must utilize the training procedures outlined in the SSA Master Program Guide training syllabus.

## **Qualification for SSA Dues Reimbursement**

Discontinued. Form 2 is no longer valid and has been removed from the SSF web site.

**Cross Country Training Syllabus.** The training syllabus in the Program Guide lists the ground and flight topics that must be taught. These include:

- Accuracy Landings
- Off Field Landings
- Thermal Acquisition and Centering
- Speed to Fly
- Map Reading and Navigation
- Cross Country Soaring Techniques
- Use of Parachutes

Master Cross-Country Instructors must agree to utilize the training procedures outlined in the SSA Instructor Cross-County Guide training syllabus.

### **Additional Approved Syllabus**

The primary Approved Syllabus for ground and flight training set out in the Master Instructor Cross-Country Program *Cross-Country Handbook for Students*, amplified by the *Instructor Supplement* to the *Handbook*, or any other syllabus which has been approved in advance by the SSA Chief Master Instructor. The *Cross-Country Handbook for Students*, and the *Instructor Supplement* are available online at the Soaring Safety Foundation (SSF) website [www.soaringsafety.org](http://www.soaringsafety.org) Select the “Distance Learning” page and follow the instructions.

Organizations wishing to obtain approval for additional syllabi must make application to the SSA Chief Master Instructor giving as much detail as practicable at least 6 weeks before the intended Instructor Course or Student Camp for which approval is being requested.

### **Recognized Instructor Courses and Recognized Student Camps**

A Recognized Instructor Course is an Instructor Course of at least 3 days (not necessarily consecutive) during which an Approved Syllabus (see *Approved Syllabus* section above) is used and all instruction is provided by or under the direct supervision of one or more current Master Cross-Country Instructors.

A Recognized Student Camp is a Student Camp of at least 3 days (not necessarily consecutive) during which an Approved Syllabus (see *Approved Syllabus* section above) is used and all instruction is provided by or under the direct supervision of one or more current Master Cross-Country Instructors, with or without the assistance of Cross-Country Coaches.

The SSA and the SSF will assist organizations holding Recognized Instructor Courses and Recognized Student Camps in publicizing these in *Soaring* magazine, on the SSA and SSF web pages, and elsewhere as appropriate.

### **Report of Recognized Instructor Courses, Recognized Student Camps and Individual Instruction**

If consideration for initial issue or renewal of a Master Cross-Country Instructor designation is desired, the organization conducting the Recognized Instructor Course or Recognized Student Camp or the Master Instructor providing individual instruction **MUST make a report** to the SSA on the prescribed form (Form 3) upon completion of the Cross-Country Course, Camp, or individual instruction, as the case may be.

NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN BY THE SSA in respect of SSAI Master designations or renewal unless and until the relevant report has been received by the SSA, and the individual applications are sent to the SSA Chief Master Instructor for consideration.

## Cross-Country Coaches

The SSA recognizes that another resource of value in holding Student Cross-Country Camps is the existence of cross-country pilots who, while not CFGs, have the experience, skills and ability to assist in the teaching of most of an Approved Syllabus. The SSA wishes to encourage and recognize such cross-country pilots (“Coaches”). Coaches, and pilots intending to qualify as Coaches by assisting in a Recognized Student Camp, must operate under the direct supervision of a Master Cross-Country Instructor, follow the *SSA Cross-Country Coach Guidelines* set out in Appendix 1 and follow an Approved Syllabus.

To qualify for the title of Coach, a pilot must meet the following requirements:

- a. Be an SSA member.
- b. Hold a current US Pilot Certificate (PVT or COM) for Gliders.
- c. Hold SSA Bronze and FAI Silver and Gold badges.
- d. Have a minimum of 100 hours logged solo cross-country time in gliders on flights over a distance of at least 50 nautical miles.
- e. Have assisted in providing ground and flight instruction given at a Recognized Student Camp in accordance with the *SSA Cross-Country Coach Guidelines*.
- f. Have made application to the SSA on the prescribed form (Form 4).

Upon reviewing the **Coach Application (Form 4)**, the SSA Chief Master Instructor may consider the designation of a limited number of Coaches by issuing a Cross-Country Coach Certificate to qualifying pilots. Designation will be for 24 months after approval. Coaches are encouraged to earn the FAA Flight Instructor Certificate, become an SSAI and then apply for consideration for designation as a Master Cross-Country Instructor.

For the removal of doubt, neither the participation of a Coach at a Recognized Camp nor the issuance of a Cross-Country Coach Certificate is an endorsement by the SSA or the Soaring Safety Foundation that a Coach is a flight instructor, either within the meaning of FAR Part 61, under the SSAI program, under the Master Instructor Cross-Country Program, or otherwise.

## Non-Compliance

In the case of a Coach or an SSAI not complying with the rules and directions given in this Program Guide, their designation may be denied or revoked by the SSA Chief Master Instructor.

### **Authority for this Program**

The Master Instructor Cross-Country Program is presently administered by the Soaring Safety Foundation; however, the entire Master Instructor Program (including the Cross-Country Program) remains the ultimate responsibility of the SSA, and under the direction of the SSA Chief Master Instructor. This Program Guide and the Rules of the Program may be amended at any time by the SSA Chief Master Instructor, who is appointed by the Trustees of the Soaring Safety Foundation.

### **Further Information**

Further information, advice and assistance on the Master Instructor Cross-Country Program can be obtained from the SSA Chief Master Instructor.

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## APPENDIX 1

### Master Instructor Cross-Country Program

#### SSA Cross-Country Coach Guidelines

(Guidelines for Cross-Country Pilots who are not CFIGs)

**Application.** These guidelines apply both to dual flight in a two-place glider, and solo flight (“Observe and Follow”) where the Coach accompanies a solo pilot (“Student”) in another glider. It is not appropriate for a coach to teach off-field landing techniques – this should be done by a suitably experienced CFIG. The Coach must follow an Approved Syllabus of the Master Cross-Country Instructor Program.

**Planning.** Whether doing Observe and Follow or using a two-place glider, in every case, before the flight begins, a goal, reasonably capable of attainment, should be chosen. Careful and thorough pre-flight planning and briefing are important, as is post-flight discussion, if the Student is to gain the maximum benefit from the flight.

**Two-place gliders.** Before making a dual flight, the Coach and the Student must agree who is to be the pilot-in-command (“PIC”). In the case of a Student who does not hold a private or higher glider pilot certificate, the PIC *must* be the Coach.

In dual flight, the object is to have the Student handle the glider as much as possible. The Coach should discuss with the Student the relevant elements involved in decision making (e.g. where to go next; what McCreeady value to set, etc.) and let the Student execute the decision. Only in emergency (when the Coach is PIC) or where necessary to demonstrate a technique, or prevent an off-field landing, should the Coach fly the glider.

**Observe and Follow.** In Observe and Follow, experience has shown that where the Student follows the Coach, little may be learned other than the ability to chase another glider. The object is not for the Coach to demonstrate his/her superior ability by arriving first at the goal. Soaring off and leaving the Student to his/her own devices (sink or swim) will most likely lead to a substantial loss of confidence if the result is the Student being forced to make an off-field landing.

The Coach should where possible *follow and observe* the Student, letting the student experience the conditions, assisted if necessary by advice from or demonstration by the Coach (e.g. by temporarily taking the lead and locating a thermal and waiting for the Student to catch up and become established in it.) Communication by radio must be limited to what is necessary – it is unacceptable to clutter the frequency with the sort of conversational exchanges that might be made if flying together in a two-place glider. The Coach should keep the Student in direct sight throughout the flight until the Student lands.

Using the Observe and Follow method, unless there is more than one Student being supervised by the Coach, it is desirable for the Coach and the Student to fly the same type of glider, or similar performance gliders.

**Student pilots.** Coaches must not make signed endorsements in a Student’s logbook; it is of course appropriate for the Student to describe the flight in his/her own logbook. Coaches should be aware of the requirements for cross-country flight by holders of student pilot certificates set out in FAR§61.93, including the prerequisites for endorsement prior to flight by an authorized instructor. Additionally, where the applicable insurance requires, such a flight may also require to be made under the ‘direct supervision’ of an authorized instructor.