



First Flight Guide

By Stephen Dee

The concept of the First Flight with a CFI-G offers a terrific opportunity for Instructors to instill professionalism in the ranks of what is largely a part-time flying group. Don't take the responsibility lightly; a little pre-flight planning on what to cover in your training session will go a long way.

First of all, be encouraging! This evolution is entirely optional, so find a way to make it fun as well as productive! Although this is not a check ride, or a Flight Review, some of the required elements of each are a good place to start. The following list includes some suggestions use what seems helpful.

1. Review the trainee's own currency, continuity, and total flight experience.
2. Discuss key operational features, capabilities and limitations of the glider to be flown, along with launch methodology.
3. Review Preflight Procedures, with emphasis on Positive Control Check.
4. Discuss proposed profile for today's flight. Include Stalls and/or spin entries and recoveries if appropriate.
5. Discuss weather factors, including Density Altitude that will affect today's flight.
6. For Aero tow, review and quiz visual signals and standard tow procedures, to include boxing the wake.
7. Emphasize collision avoidance and clearing techniques.
8. Suggest aids to maintaining Situation Awareness with regard to energy state, proximity to the airport, local traffic, and flying a goal oriented pattern to an accuracy landing.
9. Review and summarize any key changes to FAR's and local Club SOP's. Make the flight as planned, and if need be, suggest another if things don't quite go as planned, or the trainee demonstrates less than PTS proficiency. When through flying, debrief thoroughly, to reinforce those elements flown well, and encourage/suggest ways to improve those flown not so well. Remember, the goal is to promote pilot proficiency, which leads to safe operations. Your participation is what will make the First Flight program a success!

