

# **FIRST STEPS**

## **Before Starting:**

### **What kind of flying do you want to do?**

**Flying for Fun –** The private pilot certificate gives you a lot of freedom as a pilot. You can make trips with friends and family while splitting the cost.

**Flying as a career –** From flight instruction, aerial firefighting, airlines, to cropdusting there are a plethora of jobs for pilots. With a looming pilot shortage now happens to be a great time to join the industry.

**An added benefit of flying with Valkyrie Air** will be access to networking for entry level work as a pilot. Currently our pilots fly scenic tours, aerial fire watch, charters, and flight instruction. While you are not guaranteed a position with Valkyrie we will always help our students after training.

**Valkyrie Air has you in mind** so if you are unsure what exactly you'd like to do come and chat with us, or shoot us an email/ call. We are here to help and want you to succeed.

**The Airplane Owner's and Pilot's Association** has great references on getting started and can be found at:

**[www.aopa.org](http://www.aopa.org)**

**Now let's check out some initial steps...**

## **Step 1: Take a Discover Flight**

**Schedule your first flight.** It will count toward your first lesson! The discovery flight will introduce you to flying and the learning environment. You can get to know your instructor too. You'll want an instructor that is motivated, knowledgeable, and cool headed.

## **Step 2: Review Your Options**

**When training you can attend either a Part 141 school or Part 61.** There are pros and cons to both. We offer Part 61 training which awards greater flexibility with scheduling, we can save on cost, and on time.

## **Step 3: Obtain a Medical**

**Ensure you are fit to fly** by scheduling an appointment with an FAA medical examiner. If flying for a career you'll want to get a first class medical to ensure there will be no hangups as you move up in the industry. Otherwise a third class will suffice.

## **Step 4: Obtain Funding**

**If you are a veteran** check with [ebenefits.va.gov](http://ebenefits.va.gov) to see your eligibility for the GI Bill. There are also scholarships and financing options. Otherwise check with [aopa.org](http://aopa.org) for financing. The costs vary but averages put the Private Cert at \$10,000 and Commercial Cert at another \$50,000. Our costs are \$150/hr for the Piper Warrior, 190/hr for the Cessna 182, and instructor at \$55/hr.

## **Step 5: Begin!**

**It's time to start the journey.** We'll get you scheduled with an instructor and work toward your goals. There are free materials for study from the FAA so you can get started today!