

What is FAPA and What Do I Do as a Volunteer?

by Roger Le

For Questions/Comments/Kudos contact me on **Discord**: rogerle

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FAPA stands for the Future & Active Pilots Alliance, <https://www.fapa.aero>, and is a pilot-centered career information service.

They target pilots and future pilots from initial training to retirement.

FAPA offers resources such as pilot job fairs, future pilot seminars, interview preparation, retirement, and member-only tools such as a Flight School Finder to help pilots, pilots in training, and future pilots make informed career decisions to have an unbiased third party opinion.



Caption: FAPA career fair in Dallas, TX (8 AM - 12 PM) Date: Oct 2024

FAPA hosts one event per month across the United States. It is typically a career fair from Friday (08:00 AM - 12:00 PM) and Saturday, Future Pilot Seminar from (10:00 AM to 2:00 PM) local time.

The actual schedule may vary depending on location.

As an example, the 2025 Schedule:

Date	Location	Date	Location
January 17	Orlando, FL	July 11	Denver, CO
February 21	Dallas/Fort Worth, TX	August 22	New York, NY
March 14	San Diego, CA	September 19	Dallas/Fort Worth, TX
April 25	Atlanta, GA	October 17	Tampa Bay/St. Petersburg, FL
May 16	Chicago, IL	November 21	Phoenix, AZ
June 13	Charlotte, NC	December 19	Fort Lauderdale, FL

Source: <https://www.fapa.aero/exhibit-or-advertise> current as of 02/5/2025 and is subject to change.

FAPA has graciously allowed PAPA to table at their career fair and speak at their future pilot seminar to an audience looking to begin their pilot journey.



Caption: Roger Le during PAPA outreach presentation in Dallas, TX (4:35 PM) Date: Oct 2024
P/C: Jed Shoaf

Schedule

Typical FAPA Format and Schedule for Volunteers (that's you!). The actual Schedule may vary.

Day 1:

12 PM - 4 PM	Arrival via (Flight, Car, Bus, Train, etc)
5 PM	Table Setup (1-2 volunteers needed)
6/7 PM	FAPA Happy Hour (Good networking!)(optional)
8/9 PM	FAPA Happy Hour Ends
10/11 PM	End of Day

Day 2:

7:00 AM	Free Hot Breakfast sponsored by FAPA
8:00 AM	Career Fair Opens
9:00 AM	Career Fair
10:00 AM	Career Fair
11:00 AM	Career Fair
12:00 PM	Career Fair Ends/Free Hot Lunch sponsored by FAPA
12:30/12:45 PM	End of Day

Day 3:

10:00 AM	Future Pilot Seminar Begins
12:05 PM ish	PAPA Outreach Presentation during Future Pilot Seminar
2:00 PM	End of Day

What We Do

Our role as volunteers is to inform, inspire, and educate the public about PAPA's purpose, mission, and services such as scholarships and mentorship. You will talk to pilots or future pilots at various stages of their flying careers.

Talking Points

The [PAPA info sheet](#) will guide your conversations and is a reference for membership benefits!

Of course, we also tell them about our regional PAPA Socials and especially about our upcoming PAPA Expo on June 2nd - 4th, 2025 at the Westgate in Las Vegas, Nevada!



Caption: PAPA table and attendees at Dallas, TX FAPA Event Date: Oct 2024



Caption: PAPA Members (left to right): Gabriel Geng, San Ko, Hoang Vo, Jin Park, Adam Zhao, Roger Le, Jed Shoaf in front of our PAPA table in Dallas, TX

What is in it for me?

As a volunteer, you get to network with some fantastic PAPA pilots. You'll meet various pilots, from those starting their training to those looking for their next position.

The most significant selling point is that by volunteering, you'll have access to develop relationships with recruiters from many regional airlines, the FAA, the U.S. Border Patrol, and other companies/organizations tabling at the event.

Free Food

On day 1, it is highly recommended to attend the optional FAPA Happy Hour event sponsored by FAPA for alcoholic drinks/refreshments with light food and begin networking with recruiters in a relaxed setting. This is in addition to getting to know your fellow PAPA members!

FAPA sponsors TWO hot meals for us, breakfast and lunch, during the day of the Career Fair and it is usually catered by the hotel.



Caption: Hungry pilots getting lunch after tabling. From (left to right): San Ko, Hoang Vo, Roger Le

While eating breakfast and/or lunch, you might obtain mentoring/advice from fellow PAPA members or recruiters to help guide you in your flying career.

You can add to your resume that you volunteered with PAPA Outreach and helped guide the next generation of aviators!

Roles

Volunteer:

Volunteering consists of being near the table or walking around the career fair introducing yourself to attendees to raise awareness of PAPA. You'll be sharing your pilot experiences and handing out PAPA flyers and swag.

Volunteering starts after breakfast around 8 AM and ends at 5 PM local time.

You may choose to volunteer and present 1 or more PAPA Outreach slides during the Future Pilot Seminar to recruit future members.

FAPA is very generous in sponsoring us for food/beverages at their Happy Hour, Breakfast and Lunch.

As a PAPA volunteer, you DO NOT need to sign up for the FAPA.aero website as an official attendee.

Often FAPA signups may be closed due to a high number of attendees for that city.

You are encouraged to invite future and current pilots to sign up for the FAPA event as an official attendee.

Team Lead:

There will be one or two volunteers that will lead the event. They will receive items such as the PAPA tablecloth, table runner, PAPA business cards, flyers, PAPA info sheet, and PAPA branded swag to give out to attendees.

Team leads will often be an organizer and your main point of contact. Their role is to delegate tasks to volunteers, help coordinate pickups from the airport, and resolve problems as they occur.

Volunteering Summary:

Overall, the volunteering is talking about PAPA and aviation to members of the public who are in various stages of their pilot journey. You could make a huge difference in someone else's life as a pilot and someone else could make a huge difference in yours. The event wouldn't be the same without you!

Hotel/Lodging:

FAPA will usually share a discount code to stay at the hotel where the event will occur.

However, there is no obligation to stay at that specific hotel.

There may be cheaper lodging options and sharing/splitting of rooms is encouraged but that will require coordination with other PAPA members and/or the team lead for assistance.

You are responsible for your own lodging and transportation costs to/from the event hotel and airport.

Airfare:

For those PAPA members without flight benefits, there **MAY** be flight vouchers available to help reduce the cost of the flight to a FAPA event. Contacting Richard Couture, Ronald Yang and Terry Tran via **Discord**, in one chat, is the current protocol to request a voucher, **if** vouchers are available.

Attire:

If you are a job-seeking pilot, usually CFI/CFII, regional airline pilot, and plan on speaking with recruiters for a job, we recommend that you come dressed in interview/business attire.

Approved:

- Company Uniform (if any)
- PAPA Polo and Black/Beige Slacks/Dress
- Button Up Shirt

FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to attend optional events?

No. Due to schedules and aviation delays beyond anyone's control, some volunteers may arrive later than others. You are strongly encouraged to attend as much as you can when you can!

What is the minimum number of volunteers needed to table?

Ideally, having a minimum of 3 volunteers at the table allows for two people sitting at the table and the third PAPA member to be a floater/greeter standing in front of the table to welcome people.

Much like the airlines, overselling seats will ensure capacity is met! Due to aviation, some volunteers could have a schedule change at the last minute, so it is best to have more volunteers than needed to provide rotation, shifts, and relief from tabling. The event lead may create a schedule to help manage rotations/shifts/breaks.

I'll be late to X, what do I do?!

Things happen! Communicating early and initiating the conversation helps everyone. Coordinate with your team lead regarding the situation and stay calm. Road traffic and delayed flights occur more often than we like. Stay safe and make it in when you can.

Where do I park?

Parking SpotHero app and coordinate with the team lead for more specifics!

Tabling Tips

Tip #1: To create a warm, welcoming environment, initiate the conversation and welcome anyone within 6 feet of the table within 15-30 seconds.

Tip #2: Avoid non-essential cell phone usage at the table and long conversations (5-15 min) between just PAPA members. Be present! You might meet a future co-pilot!

Tip #3: You are representing PAPA and not just yourself. Speak and carry yourself professionally in tone and topics of conversation. You never know who listens, especially with the FAA, possibly a few tables away!

If you've made it this far, thanks for reading, and enjoy the event. It is what you make of it, and it is a lot of fun being around other PAPA members! See you at the EXPO!