



**2024 RAA Scholarship Recipient**

**COREY ZENDEJAS**  
**Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University**  
**Daytona Beach, Florida**

My name is Corey Zendejas, and I have lived my whole life in Auburn, Washington, until recently. I am now a freshman at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida, majoring in Aeronautical Science - Flight. Aviation has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember, and I have loved every aspect. As a child, I had numerous toy airplanes and would ask to watch the planes take off and land at the airport for fun. I loved watching the pilots walk around the plane, the luggage on the conveyor belt, and the marshalls with light wands.

My first time actually 'flying' occurred when I was ten years old; my dad's friend owned a Cessna 172 airplane and agreed to take us both up. He let me sit in the right seat, and at about 3,000 feet in the air for the first time in my life, when I moved the yoke, the aircraft moved. Right at that surreal moment, I decided I wanted to fly. I joined the Civil Air Patrol when I was 12; I soloed with 9.3 hours and earned my Private Pilot License in 26 days when I was 17 years old. I earned my Associate Applied Science degree in Aviation Technology while simultaneously earning my high school diploma. I am excited and honored to continue my aviation journey, and I cannot wait to see where life and the skies take me!