

ACADEMY OF MODEL AERONAUTICS

MODEL AVIATION STUDENT CLUB CHARTERING GUIDE



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AMA Vision

We, the members of the Academy of Model Aeronautics, are the pathway to the future of modeling and are committed to making modeling the foremost sport/hobby in the world.

This vision is accomplished through:

- Affiliation with its valued associates, the modeling industry and governments.
- A process of continuous improvement.
- A commitment to leadership, quality, education and scientific/technical development.
- A safe, secure, enjoyable modeling environment.

AMA Mission

The Academy of Model Aeronautics is a world-class association of modelers organized for the purpose of promotion, development, education, advancement, and safeguarding of modeling activities.

The Academy provides leadership, organization, competition, communication, protection, representation, recognition, education, and scientific/technical development to modelers.

What is a Model Aviation Student Club

In the mid-1960s, AMA established a program that gave local AMA members the opportunity to join together as a group, enjoy camaraderie, exchange modeling tips and tricks, and secure use of flying sites.

In 2011, AMA established the Model Aviation Student Club (MASC) program providing school and other youth organizations with aeromodeling interests and activities the means to charter their group with the organization.

Today, AMA charters more than 2,000 clubs throughout the United States and provides them with various programs and benefits

In order to charter your group, you'll need to do the following:

- ☐ A teacher, employee, or other authorized individual of your school, who is actively involved with the drone soccer activities, and/or other model aviation operation for your group. He or she will be the main point of contact with the AMA and will advocate for the MASC with the school. The sponsor will receive a complimentary AMA adult membership, including the print edition of *Model Aviation* magazine.
- ☐ Make sure that the paperwork included in this packet is completed.
 - Students will complete their individual enrollment forms and return them to their sponsor.
 - The sponsor will complete his or her enrollment form (please write "MASC sponsor" at the top of the page), as well as the remaining club chartering documents.
- ☐ Arrange for the school or students to pay the applicable fees.
 - AMA youth memberships¹ are \$20.
 - Club chartering fee has been waived for MASC.
 - \$85 site insurance fee (if applicable)

Note: *While AMA membership is required for flight operations, we recognize the need to allow interested youth an opportunity to learn more even if they are not ready to take-off quite yet. Our Young Aviator program allows these youth to learn more about this exciting hobby. For more information, please visit www.modelaircraft.org/youngaviators*

- ☐ The sponsor will send all enrollment forms, club chartering paperwork, and payment as a complete package to the attention of the AMA MASC Program using one of these options.
 - Email: clubs@modelaircraft.org, Subject: MASC Enrollment Forms
 - Fax: (765) 289-4248,
 - Mail: Academy of Model Aeronautics, 5161 E. Memorial Dr., Muncie IN 47302

That's it! After we receive all of the information, we will process your forms and payment, if applicable, and get your MASC charter to you as soon as possible. Please look at the next few pages for more detailed information. If you still have questions, feel free to contact us via email (please include MASC in the subject line) or call (765) 287-1256.

¹ Children and young adults 19 years or younger as of July 1 of any given year.

Once we process your chartering request, we will email a club certificate. The club charter year starts on March 31. This runs concurrently with the dates of the liability insurance policy, which is included as a benefit to your club and your club officers (if applicable). MASC documents and any applicable fees must be renewed annually for the club to continue its charter status with AMA. We will send renewal reminders and the appropriate documentation before the charter expires!

Let's get started!

On the next few pages, you will find information that will assist you with the chartering process as well as provide you with material outlining club benefits and other important facts. Some of these forms are required; others are optional, depending on your specific club situation.

Is there a minimum number of people required for the MASC?

No, AMA has waived the minimum member requirement for MASCs.

Do we need club officers?

Yes, we highly recommend it, but it's not required! The sponsor can be listed as one of the officers, but it's important for youth to actively participate in the leadership roles. Positions include president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and safety coordinator. Officers can be elected or appointed as determined by your club. We have compiled some [suggested duties and responsibilities](#) for the different positions that you can use, or you can create your own.

After we have processed your forms, we will assign a unique charter number for your club. Please include that number in your communication with AMA. This way we can make sure we provide you with the correct information.

Club membership and rosters

Clubs are autonomous entities and have the discretion to limit their membership such as certain modeling activities or a limit to the number of members allowed.

Important: *All clubs are required to have an open membership as it relates to race, color, creed, national origin, gender, age, or disability.*

After your club has been chartered, the sponsor will be able to review and update the club membership roster online or assign the responsibility to a youth member serving as club officer.

Club bylaws

MASC clubs are currently not required to write or submit bylaws; however, it may be a good decision (and practice) to do so.

Organizational bylaws usually deal with such items as name, purpose, membership, dues, officers and their duties, safety matters, meetings, order of business, and how to amend the bylaws. If your club has an issue unique to the local area, this issue should be addressed within the bylaws. AMA has created some [minimum recommendations](#) to assist with this project.

Can I get more details about the youth member benefits?

Youth members of the MASC receive most AMA's benefits just like any other regular AMA member, including insurance coverage for modeling activities. This will allow youth to be covered when flying at AMA chartered club flying sites or participate in AMA sanctioned events. Youth members will receive a digital subscription to *Model Aviation* magazine.

Safety Code Compliance

Safety rules are not an obstacle to the enjoyment of model flying; they help prove that model fliers are the responsible people they proclaim to be. All AMA chartered clubs are charged with the responsibility of ensuring that their modeling activities will be conducted in compliance with [AMA's National Model Aircraft Safety Code](#). Supplemental guidelines are referenced within the Safety Code and can be obtained either from the [AMA website](#) or by contacting AMA Headquarters.

Aeromodeling is a fun and fulfilling activity, but with it comes the responsibility of every participant to exercise the same professionalism and caution one would expect to find in any other aviation activity. The minimum amount of time and effort required to provide a safe environment pays major benefits many times over.

Any incident involving model aircraft can result in property damage or bodily injury. Apart from any direct harm, a less-obvious result is the poor image of model flying that results from media coverage of such incidents, which may lead to public antagonism, and in some cases, to the loss of flying facilities. This is why it is important that model fliers observe safety rules and take a commonsense approach.

Any reckless, intentionally unsafe modeling operation can seriously limit the extent to which AMA benefits may work to protect members, clubs, and property owners.

Club Insurance Benefits

Club Insurance Coverage: Chartering a club provides liability insurance benefits to the club and the club officers. This is not only limited to an accident caused by flying models. AMA knows that a club can also be sued for non-flying accidents that may occur at its flying field, meeting site, or a club event. Such accidents may be caused by a club member, spectator, or someone else while acting on behalf of the club and may arise from conditions of the premises or other non-flying activities. For this reason, liability coverage for AMA chartered clubs extends to claims arising from model flying, as well as non-model-flying accidents.

Club officers are provided primary liability insurance coverage for the duties they perform associated with the club activities. The insurance industry calls this the "vicarious liability" for the acts of others or accidents caused by others.

- Important:** AMA does not provide insurance coverage for
- a) club-owned equipment (e.g., storage sheds, lawn mowers, etc.) or
 - b) Directors & Officers (D&O) coverage (claims resulting from decisions regarding club policy, discrimination, environmental issues, etc.) Clubs should check with local insurance providers if they are interested in obtaining these items.

Flying Site Owner Insurance Coverage: Most property owners want to be ensured that they are protected if they allow a chartered club to use their property as a flying site, so they will ask for an insurance certificate that will name the property owner as an “additional insured.” This coverage safeguards the owner if he or she is named in a claim because of an accident caused by an AMA member and/or club. Clubs can obtain this coverage for the charter year or for specific event dates. There is a processing fee of \$85/certificate for the charter year coverage or \$30/certificate for specific event coverage. Please complete this [form](#) and submit along with the appropriate payment.

The coverage provides up to \$2,500,000 of primary liability insurance coverage to the flying site owner. You may want to provide this [summary page](#) with the program highlights to any current or potential new site owner.

Flying Sites

Most charter clubs and model fliers are careful in their selection of flying sites, layouts, and other operational practices. AMA has developed some suggestions giving clubs a starting point, if needed. These suggestions are not mandatory requirements, and of course, do not guarantee that no accident will occur. Clubs are welcome to use these recommendations, and can use their discretion to modify any of the items based on their specific situation, e.g., types of aircraft used, geographical location, obstructions, proximity of neighbors, etc. Click [here](#) to see AMA’s suggested RC flying site specifications.

AMA’s Clubs Department also works with chartered clubs to help them understand how to safeguard their flying sites and secure them, as well as help members and clubs understand the need to look for another site—even while they are enjoying their current site. We will continue to help clubs that have lost a site to locate and secure a new one. Email the [FSAC](#) or call at (765) 287-1256.

Remote ID and FAA-Recognized Identification Area (FRIA)

What is Remote ID? Remote ID is the ability of an unmanned aircraft in flight to provide identification and location information that other people can receive through a broadcast signal. As of September 16, 2023, all unmanned aircraft must operate per the FAA’s Remote ID rule.

There are three paths to comply with the Remote ID rule.

1. The aircraft is equipped with a built-in remote ID module.
2. The aircraft is equipped with a separately purchased ID module.
3. The aircraft operates at a FRIA.

What is a FRIA? FRIA stands for FAA-Recognized Identification Area and is a location where unmanned aircraft may operate *without broadcasting Remote ID*. As an FAA-recognized community-based organization (CBO), AMA can request FRIA status for your club’s flying site on your behalf. We just need some basic information, which you can provide to us at www.modelaircraft.org/form/fria-application.

I have more questions. Help!

You can email us at clubs@modelaircraft.org. Please use “MASC questions” for the subject line or call us at (765) 287-1256, and ask to speak to someone in the Club Services Department about forming a Model Aviation Student Club.

AMA MASC Information

Club name _____ Club # _____

Examples: Northside Flying Tigers, Westside Jr./Sr. High Aeromodeling Club, etc. School name will be club name as a default if none indicated. (for club renewal)

School/Organization name _____

Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Website _____

School/Organization employee/sponsor information

Name _____

AMA number (if current member) _____

Mailing address _____

Phone _____

Email (required) _____

I certify that the above information is correct, the employee/sponsor is affiliated with the school/organization named above and a background check has been completed. I also confirm the students enrolled in the MASC program are current students at this school or enrolled/participating in the organization's programming.

School/Organization administrator or authorized representative's signature/title

Date

Club name _____ Club # _____

Club Officers

An officer can hold more than one position, e.g., secretary/treasurer, VP/safety coordinator, etc.

The Safety Coordinator is a required position, and the designated officer must have access to email.

☐ President Name _____ AMA # _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Day tel.: _____ Evening tel.: _____
Email _____

☐ Vice President Name _____ AMA # _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Day tel.: _____ Evening tel.: _____
Email _____

☐ Secretary Name _____ AMA # _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Day tel.: _____ Evening tel.: _____
Email _____

☐ Treasurer Name _____ AMA # _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Day tel.: _____ Evening tel.: _____
Email _____

☐ Safety
Coordinator Name _____ AMA # _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Day tel.: _____ Evening tel.: _____
Email _____

Club name _____ Club # _____

Club Roster Form

Each member of the club who participates in club flying activities must be an AMA member.

New clubs: List all club members.

Renewing clubs: List only new club members or club members who should be deleted from the club roster.

Do not list club officers on this form.

Your sponsor will forward any roster updates to AMA's Clubs Department as they occur.

Sponsor name: _____

Please indicate if the member is being added or deleted by entering a (✓) in the appropriate column.

AMA #	Last name, first name, city, and state	Add	Delete

Club name _____ Club # _____

[illegible]

Club name _____ Club # _____

Flying Site Information

The information we are requesting is to help locate all the flying site locations used by AMA chartered clubs throughout the United States. We will associate these locations directly with your club and publish the data on the AMA website under the "Find a Club" tool. Some locations may have accessibility restrictions. Please indicate if the location *cannot* be published.

If your club has multiple flying sites, please complete a copy of this form for each.

Flying site name (if multiple sites) _____

GPS coordinates: Latitude _____ Longitude _____

☐ Do not publish.

Does your club own or rent/lease the property?

☐ Own ☐ Rent/lease ☐ Other _____

If the club does not own the property, who is the landowner?

☐ Private ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County/City ☐ Other _____

☐ Bureau of Land Management ☐ US Army Corps of Engineers

Is the flying site at any of these locations?

☐ School ☐ Park ☐ Full-scale airport

Is this flying site located in controlled or uncontrolled airspace?

☐ Controlled ☐ Uncontrolled

Does your club have a Letter of Agreement (LOA signed after October 2018) or a 7711 Airspace Authorization with the local Air Traffic Control (ATC) as it pertains to your activities?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know.

Does your club want or need to provide liability insurance coverage to the landowner? (If your club owns the property, coverage is automatically provided.)

☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, please complete the application on the next page.

Club name _____ Club # _____

Application for Insuring Flying Site Owner

Club officer name and position _____

AMA will process your certificate request upon receipt. The insurance certificate will be mailed to the property owner (or emailed if address is provided). The officer designated as the club contact will automatically receive an email copy of the certificate for the club files.

There is an \$85 charge for each "year-round" certificate issued to run concurrently with the club charter. Date-specific certificates for events such as fun-flies, mall shows, etc., are available for \$30.

Please be as accurate as possible when completing this form. You may need to contact the property owner to ensure you have the correct information.

Legal name of additional insured/property:

Name and mailing address of the additional insured listed above:

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Site location/address: ☐ Club meeting location only, no flying activities

☐ Year-round, \$85 ☐ Event only, \$30, date(s): _____

Legal name of additional insured/property:

Name and mailing address of the additional insured listed above:

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Site location/address: ☐ Club meeting location only, no flying activities

☐ Year-round, \$85 ☐ Event only, \$30, date(s): _____

MASC Chartering Payment Summary

1) Annual club charter fee \$Waived!

2) Certificate of insurance for year-round flying site (\$85/certificate)
Please include completed application.

_____ certificate(s) x \$85.00 \$ _____

3) Certificate of insurance for event (\$30/certificate)
Please include completed application listing the specific event date.

_____ certificate(s) x \$30.00 \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Payment type: ☐ Check ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover

Credit card ____ - ____ - ____ - ____ Exp. date ____ / ____

Cardholder's signature _____

Effective January 1, 2026, AMA will assess a \$3 convenience fee for all credit card and PayPal transactions.