

# THE ABC PROGRAM

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SSA Flight Training Subcommittee

## Scope

The ABC glider training program is available to all clubs and soaring schools in the United States. The program is a complete flight syllabus for students that is integrated with chapter 2 of the *American Soaring Handbook*, "Training." It is intended to encourage complete training programs and will not be available to individuals except through clubs and schools. All applicants for the A, B and C Badges must be voting members or Student Members of SSA.

## Instructor Qualifications

The responsibility for the operation of the program rests with the resident "SSA Instructor" at each club or school. There will be only one "SSA Instructor" for each organization.

It is intended that this instructor normally be the most experienced in the group although this need not necessarily be true. The various organizations will choose their own SSA Instructor.

Qualifications for approval of an instructor for a group are as follows:

1. He must have been a member of SSA for at least one year prior to application. (This is not intended to require continuous membership or membership in the immediately preceding year.)

2. Flight experience: 50 hours of glider flight time, including 100 flights; or 35 hours of glider flight time, including 150 flights; or equivalent compensating power INSTRUCTOR experience when specifically approved by the SSA Flight Training Subcommittee.

## Requirements for the A Badge

### Preflight phase

Applicant has knowledge of:

1. Glider nomenclature
2. Glider handling procedures
3. Glider preflight check
4. Airport rules and regulations
5. Tow equipment signals and procedures
6. Hook-up of tow rope or cable
7. Take-off signals
8. Pilot responsibilities

Applicant holds:

1. Valid FAA student glider pilot certificate
2. Suitable log book

### Presolo phase

Applicant has completed following minimum flight training program:

1. Familiarization flight
2. Cockpit check procedure
3. Effects of controls, on the ground and in flight
4. Take-off procedure, cross-wind take-offs
5. Flight during tow
6. Straight and level flight
7. Simple turns
8. Circuit procedure and landing patterns
9. Landing procedure, downwind and cross-wind landings
10. Moderate and steep turns up to 720 degrees in both directions
11. Stalls and stall recovery
12. Conditions of spin entry and spin recovery
13. Effective use of spoilers and side slips
14. Emergency procedures
15. Oral exam on FAA Civil Air Regulations
16. Solo flight

## Requirements for the B Badge

### Pre-license phase

1. Solo practice (2 hours minimum)
2. Demonstration of ability to carry out simulated cross-country landings in restricted areas without reference to altimeter
3. Completion of all requirements for FAA private pilot certificate. (Tests to be simulated if applicant under 16)
  - (a) FAA written test
  - (b) FAA flight test

## Requirements for the C Badge

### Precross-country phase

1. Dual soaring practice, including instruction in techniques for soaring thermals, ridges and waves
2. Have knowledge of:
  - (a) Cross-country procedure recommended in the *American Soaring Handbook*
  - (b) Glider assembly, disassembly and retrieving
  - (c) Dangers of cross-country flying
3. Demonstration of soaring ability by solo flight of at least 5 minutes duration above point of release or starting point (low point after release), or 30 minutes duration after release from 2000-ft. tow

The A and B badges need not be issued prior to the C badge if the

SSA Instructor certifies that the applicant meets ALL the requirements for these badges when the C badge is issued.

## Instructor Responsibility

The SSA Instructor is not expected to personally observe each student in each phase of the program but must KNOW the student has met the qualifications for the badge when he signs the student's application. How he KNOWS this is a procedure for each group to establish for itself. Ordinarily, the SSA Instructor will be the head of a group of club instructors who will do the actual training. The intent of the SSA is to give a badge to every *qualified* student but they are not to be awarded for other services or pure friendship.

The SSA Instructor will be provided with a supply of pins, card certificates, forms, approved written examinations, accident report cards and a free copy of chapter 2 of the *American Soaring Handbook*. It is the responsibility of the SSA Instructor to present the pins and cards and submit the appropriate forms to the SSA Flight Training Subcommittee as soon as possible after awarding the badges.

The accident report cards are to be completed and submitted within one week following any incident requiring repair not normally associated with regular maintenance. (A ground loop that results in wing tip fabric being torn or the skid being broken should be reported. On the other hand, replacing the skid shoe because of regular wear would not require reporting.) Reports are to be made to the Subcommittee only for sailplanes used in the program.

## How to Institute the Program in Any Organization

1. Choose the SSA Instructor candidate.

2. Mail his application along with a \$10 deposit for pins to the SSA Flight Training Subcommittee, 19408 Santa Rita St., Tarzana, Calif., checks payable to SSA. The deposit will be returned when the organization notifies the SSA that it no longer wishes to participate in the program and returns the remaining supplies. A charge of \$1.00 each will be made for pins that are not accounted for with bona fide applications.

3. The SSA Flight Training Subcommittee will issue a kit of appropriate material to the SSA Instructor.

4. The organization operates the program. Additional supplies will be furnished on request.