



COMMENTS FROM *DAY IN THE SKY* 2006 PARTICIPANT AND VOLUNTEER SURVEYS



My daughter found flying the plane an empowering opportunity. She loved being in control of the plane and that the pilot trusted her to fly. The whole day was wonderful. Having live music and food was fabulous for everyone.

This has been one of the most memorable experiences of my life. I hope that many others have the opportunity that I had, and so I hope to hear about many more Days in the Sky to come!

You planted some very powerful seeds in the minds of these young people. Thanks!

My son absolutely loved the event and still talks about it. I loved the emphasis on empowering the kids to be in control. My son was very scared at first and then gradually built up his confidence and then all fear was gone.

My son loves to fly, in the sky he isn't a kid with issues, he is a child who is enjoying life.

We live many miles away and we love Shared Adventures. People say, OH, you came so far. We have nothing in our area like you guys and the wonderful things you do. We thank you for the excitement you have added to our impaired children's lives.

The day was a celebration of what is right with the world.

I loved being among a group of people who looked at my son and me instead of past us. Often people work so very hard NOT to notice us that they end up ignoring us or erasing us. That never happened at Day in the Sky. THANKS THANKS THANKS! How wonderful to be treated like people and not like a disability.

Best part about the event were the faces on the folks when they got off the planes.

My daughter was able to fly at the end of the day and said it was the most exciting thing in her life! She was thrilled that the pilot let her take control of the plane and he was very very patient as she was nervous of heights. She said there was no favorite part as the whole day was fun and she met some great kids and people. The worst part of the day was saying goodbye to new friends made.

You should all be applauded for your generosity and compassion. With the price of fuel and everyone's time being at a premium, it is heartwarming to see so many pilots give so much for these children who might never get a chance to fly. I work at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education and heard from some of our Special Ed kids how much fun they had. You have made a huge difference in their lives, as you can imagine, many of these kids have nothing "exciting" happen to them ever, so this was, for a lot of them, the best day ever.

It is nice to have an event so close to home that is as unique as Day in the Sky. It made our son feel very special to know that people worked so hard to create such a special event to honor children with special challenges. My son has Leukemia and he says that events like this help to even out the bad of cancer against the good of life. Thank you for all of your hard work.

I didn't have a least favorite part really, I loved every part of it.

My daughter hadn't been feeling well for days, then smiled through the ride.

So often my son is bored with his routines and this was a great experience for him. He wanted to go up again right away and he is looking forward to next year's adventure. I felt that the whole event was very well organized and everyone I saw or talked with was smiling.

Great experience volunteering, will continue to do this. I got more than I gave, what a wonderful feeling this was.

The flying was fabulous!! My daughter is still telling everyone that she flew a plane. I ran into a friend who is nonverbal, and he showed me a picture of a plane and when I asked him if he flew, he started dancing around and then clapped my hands together to show that I should clap for him! All the kids feel great about what they did!! Thanks for participating in creating a once-in-a-lifetime experience for my daughter.

My son was so happy about the fact that he was in control of the "steering wheel." and felt the plane responded to his command. Everything was so organized and easygoing. It was perfect! The festival was a complete success.

I thought everything was GREAT! I only volunteered for the first half of the day, but I was so sad to leave! Next year, I'll stay the whole time! I grew and learned some things about myself that day and met some wonderful kids and their families!

Boy...I just loved everything! I was on such a high, you'd think I had flown! Keep up the great work!

I had such a special moment when a mom of a mentally challenged boy came off the plane ride and gave me such a big hug. She had decided not to go up because she was afraid, and I talked her into going. She thanked me over and over!

My daughter loved the experience of flying in a small plane for the first time. The take off and landing were a real thrill!

You were totally awesome!!! Thank you for your kindness, patience, and understanding when having to load so much stuff on the plane (extra large car seat/straps, etc, needed to be able to sit up)

Thanks for your generosity! This was one of the most amazing events that I have seen. The event would not have been possible if not for the awesome pilots. Thanks for making the kids day and thanks for making my day a day I will remember for a long time!

I would have to say that my flight was my favorite part of the day but I would also like to mention how wonderful all the volunteers were. Everyone was so excited about being there and participating in the event. It was nice to be around that kind of energy and was exciting for me, being someone that had never participated in anything like this before.

We got to fly in the helicopter...it was great fun. The volunteers were wonderful. They were very caring and attentive to all the people who were there. It was better than expected. Our pilot was great, she circled for us to see whales swimming off Santa Cruz pier. She answered all our questions and seemed to enjoy the ride as much as we did.

My daughter had the time of her life. Everyone was sooo accommodating and wonderful.

Thank you for putting on such an amazing and memorable event. You put a smile in my son's heart and that is all I ask for in life; him to be happy. Even if it is just 1 day of the year, you really do make them feel special, you make a difference in their world. And happy children make happy parents.

We run a recreation program for children with special needs and their typically developing friends. 15 of our program's participants were able to join in the fun at Day in the Sky. They all had such an incredible time, and have not stopped talking to us about their amazing adventures in the sky! Thank you so much for this wonderful opportunity!

The best part of the day was when we landed and my son said: "(My) turn. Up in the sky. More. No all done!" (That roughly translates into: "It's my turn to fly again in the sky! I'm not ready to be all done!") He has a limited vocabulary and rarely strings together words, let alone sentences. That was just about the most words, sentences and ideas I've ever heard him say.