

DATE:

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is confirm that _____ is a member in good standing of the Canadian Owners and Pilots Association (COPA) and is seeking a Vulnerable Sector Check to participate as a Volunteer Pilot in COPA for Kids – our organization’s national youth outreach program. COPA is a federally incorporated non-profit corporation and is the national advocacy group for general aviation in Canada, representing over 16,000 pilots and aircraft owners in every province and territory. Through our 200 local chapters (called “COPA Flights”) in communities across Canada, COPA delivers a volunteer-run program for youth called “COPA for Kids” that gives young Canadians, aged 8-17, the opportunity to experience a flight in a small general aviation aircraft or helicopter.

The flights are preceded by a ground school-type session where participant youth learn the basics of the theory of flight and aircraft operations. As required by law, all participants are provided with a thorough briefing on safety and emergency procedures prior to boarding the aircraft. The flights themselves are usually 15-25 minutes in duration. The volunteer pilots supply their time and their own personal aircraft to provide the rides to participating youth. Volunteer Pilots are unpaid volunteers and receive no compensation for their time or for the operating expenses of their aircraft. Due to the nature of some aircraft, it is not always possible for the parent to accompany the minor for their flight. Where aircraft are capable of carrying multiple passengers, those seats are generally allocated to participating youth except in cases where parents specifically ask to accompany their minor on the flight.

COPA prides itself on never having had an incident in the history of our program. Nevertheless, due diligence and advice from our legal counsel requires that COPA begin mandating volunteer pilots to undergo a Vulnerable Sector Check to be eligible to volunteer in this position. We intend to require pilots complete the check every three (3) years. Where pilots have completed a Vulnerable Sector Check for another organization, COPA will accept an original copy of that check, provided it is not older than three (3) years from the date the pilot intends to volunteer in the COPA for Kids program.

For more information on the COPA for Kids Program or about COPA, visit our website: <http://www.copanational.org> or contact our office: 613-236-4901.

Regards,



Bernard Gervais
President and CEO

Advance, promote and preserve the Canadian freedom to fly.

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