

Private Pilot Glider Cost Estimate

Memphis Soaring Society - Based on 2021 Rates/Costs

The following is only an estimate. Different people will require differing amounts of training. This estimate assumes that you are an ab initio student starting with no aviation experience. Transition pilots coming from the airplane world require less training and the FAA requirements are different. The following example assumes that you fly 2 to 3 flights every weekend for 6 months.

Item	Cost	Quantity	Total
Initiation Fee	\$400	1 Fee per person/family	\$400
Monthly Dues	\$50	6 months	\$300
Tow: 1,000 feet	\$23	20 tows	\$460
Tow: 2,000 feet	\$34	23 tows	\$782
Tow: 3,000 feet	\$45	40 Tows	\$1,800
Glider Rental	\$20/hr.	16 hours	\$320
Books/Study Material	N/A	Included in Initiation fee	N/A
FAA Written Test	\$150	1 Test	\$150
FAA Practical Exam	\$400	1 Exam	\$400
Total			\$4,612

Past experiences have shown that the total cost has a range from approximately \$3,000 - \$8,000 (the average is about \$4,600) and depends upon the following variables:

- **Frequency of Lessons:** If you are able take two to three flights every weekend and you are motivated to study, your progress will be faster, more efficient and less expensive.
- **Weather:** Sometimes the weather is not cooperative.
- **Instructor availability:** Instructor and FAA examiner schedules can limit your progress.
- **Age:** Motivated people that are willing to "hit the books" tend to learn the necessary flying skills and knowledge more easily.
- **Simulator:** Experience has shown that simulator work helps training. Many of the people at the lower end of the price range had extensive simulator exposure. Condor Flight Simulator is one such example and MSS has one in the clubhouse, free to members to use for practice and training before going flying. Link <http://www.condorsoaring.com>

Do you want to get your glider license ASAP and then fly at MSS as a member? There are commercial operations that allow you to obtain your license quickly & efficiently. The costs are not always more expensive but it does require travelling to other parts of the country and spending 1-2 weeks in an intensive flight training environment. Some examples:

- Arizona Soaring near Phoenix www.azsoaring.com
- Maria Gliders in West Texas www.flygliders.com
- Honolulu Soaring in Hawaii www.honolulusoaring.com
- Seminole-Lake Gliderport in Florida www.soarfl.com
- Williams Soaring Center in California www.williamssoaring.com
- More... <http://www.ssa.org/WhereToFly>

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