



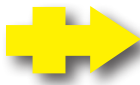
Join us in creating the
AVIATION ADVENTURE
at the National Airmail Museum

Aviation history propelling the future.

CREATE A NATIONAL DESTINATION


INSPIRE AVIATION CAREERS

GENERATE ECONOMIC IMPACT



Fort Wayne and Northeast Indiana have a long history with aviation. Many famous pilots have touched down in the northeast Indiana community and many more have learned to fly because of that history. In the early 1900s, the National Airmail Service was established with a route that ran from New York to Los Angeles. Through feats of bravery and innovation, that service paved the way to modern aviation in the United States and beyond. Smith Field, with historic Hangar #2, still exists today as a testimony to its storied past. Future generations deserve the opportunity to learn about this impactful history of aviation, be inspired about careers in aviation, and impact the local economy by visiting the Aviation Adventure at the National Airmail Museum.

The Aviation Adventure at the National Air Museum will:



CREATE A NATIONAL DESTINATION
that educates on the significance of early aviation in our area



INSPIRE AVIATION CAREERS
through hands-on learning and engagement



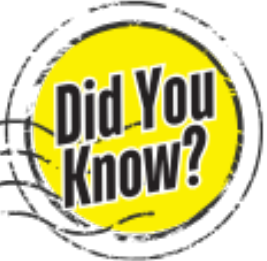
GENERATE ECONOMIC IMPACT
in our area of over \$7 million



CREATE A NATIONAL DESTINATION



For over 30 years, Smith Field in Fort Wayne, Indiana, provided a regional stop and an important waypoint on the Airmail Route which stretched from New York to Los Angeles. The airmail system hauled an average of 15.25 million tons of freight per mile, traveling hundreds of miles each year. Hangar #2 at Smith Field also played a key role with local industry to process US Navy assault drones during WWII. Famous pilots, such as Art Smith, Margaret Ringenberg and Jim Kelley, started their aviation careers here and grew aviation in Northeast Indiana. Now Smith Field is on the National Registry of Historic Places as a significant airport in the history of the United States.



Smith Field was named after Fort Wayne U.S. airmail pioneer, Art Smith, during WWII.

With the creation of the Aviation Adventure at the National Airmail Museum, Hangar 2 at Smith Field will be renovated and restored to its former glory, ready to share the stories of grit and determination experienced by the early airmail pilots. Visitors of all ages will experience simulated flight, and through the magic of AI, will have the opportunity to hear the stories of the airmail route from the heroic aviators themselves. This inspiring museum will become a destination offering its visitors an opportunity to be immersed in the excitement of early aviation!



INSPIRE AVIATION CAREERS



Children dream of flying as they create paper airplanes, watch fighter jets in the sky, and fly drones in their backyard. The Aviation Adventure at the National Airmail Museum will serve as a dynamic education platform that goes beyond a typical classroom, inspiring kids of all ages into aviation with flight simulation, hands-on learning, and STEM programming. Through interactive learning, exposure to iconic aircraft, and career guidance, the Aviation Adventure at the National Airmail Museum will play a key role in shaping the dreams of aspiring aviators.


The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), through local Chapter 2, will also have a base at the museum to expand their Young Eagles rallies. EAA Chapter 2 has provided over 12,300 flights to youth since 1992, motivating many into aviation careers through their exhilarating experience. By providing the opportunity to experience aviation of our past, present, and future, the Aviation Adventure at the National Airmail Museum will increase exposure to aviation and ultimately increase interest in aviation careers.



Increase interest in aviation careers by 25%



"I've had the privilege of working with young people in aviation for many years. As a current aircraft mechanic professor, I enjoy seeing students be inspired to learn about the history of aviation, how planes work and the overall industry. I fully support the vision of the Aviation Adventure at the National Airmail Museum, knowing this will increase the number of people exposed to aviation and ultimately move them into aviation careers."

 Michael Clouse, Program Chair, Aviation Maintenance Technology at Ivy TechCommunity College

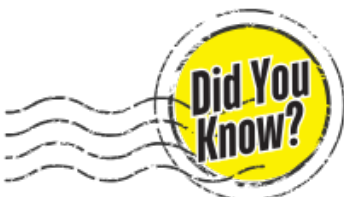


GENERATE ECONOMIC IMPACT



The Aviation Adventure at the National Airmail Museum has the potential to help northern Indiana with more than \$7 million worth of economic impact through tourism, per a study by ConsultEcon, Inc. in 2019 and extrapolated for 2025. Visitors from outside of the Fort Wayne metropolitan area will invest in lodging, meals, transportation, and potentially retail and other recreation.

The museum will encourage economic growth, such as a café or store, at or near the museum to enhance a visitor's experience. Visitors will spend the day expanding their excitement for aviation; participating in educational programming, exploring aviation careers, and watching an increased number of planes coming and going from historic Smith Field.



The air transport industry supported a total of 86.5 million jobs globally in 2023, including direct, indirect, induced and aviation-enabled tourism jobs.



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CREATE A NATIONAL DESTINATION

that educates on the significance of early aviation in our area



INSPIRE AVIATION CAREERS

through hands-on learning and engagement



GENERATE ECONOMIC IMPACT

in our area of over \$7 million

The Aviation Adventure at the National Airmail Museum will be a destination repeatedly sought out by kids of all ages across the country. By preserving the rich history of Airmail and its impact on aviation, Smith Field and Hangar 2 in Fort Wayne, IN will become a National Destination, inspire the aviators of tomorrow, and make a positive economic impact on the local community.



VISION:

To honor the history of the national airmail service while inspiring innovation and excitement for the future of aviation.

MISSION:

To provide engaging education of aviation past, current, and future through interactive programs and inspiring experiences.

Please contact us for more information:

National Airmail Museum Office
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Info.airmailmuseum@gmail.com

FRIENDS OF SMITH FIELD DBA NATIONAL AIRMAIL MUSEUM IS A 501C3 CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION.
DONATIONS TO THE NATIONAL AIRMAIL MUSEUM MAY BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE AS ALLOWED BY LAW.