

The Patty Mitchell Memorial Scholarship was combined with the Northwest Section Scholarship in January 2024. For information about the new Patty Mitchell Northwest Section of The Ninety-Nines Scholarship, visit the Northwest Section Scholarships page at <https://nw99s.org/scholarships>.

Patty Mitchell Memorial Scholarship

The purpose of the Patty Mitchell Memorial Scholarship was to support women pilots in the continued pursuit of aeronautical skills, both professionally and recreationally.

Patty Mitchell worked as a substitute teacher to pay for flying lessons. After quickly earning her private, commercial, Instrument and CFI certificates, she became one of Montana's first smoke jumper pilots. Later, she flew charters and borrowed money to earn a type rating on a Citation. She interviewed in 1987-88 with several airlines and ran into gender discrimination barriers, but kept trying. Finally, she was hired by United Airlines in 1988 on the basis of her "thinking out of the box" during communication emergencies. She was one of 200 women out of 8500 pilots. Discrimination and harassment made it difficult but she never gave up. She flew 727's, eventually earning a type rating in the 747 which she loved to fly. Patty retired from United at age 60. She continued flying, instructing, mentoring, was an aviation friend, leader and active member of the 99's until passing in 2021.

Northwest Section Scholarship

The Northwest Section Scholarship fund was created in 2013 from funds that the Section held in investment accounts. The scholarship was awarded annually for \$1,000 or the amount requested, whichever was less, for training such as flight review, emergency maneuver training, ground school, components of student pilot training, floatplane rating, instrument proficiency check, or tailwheel instruction.