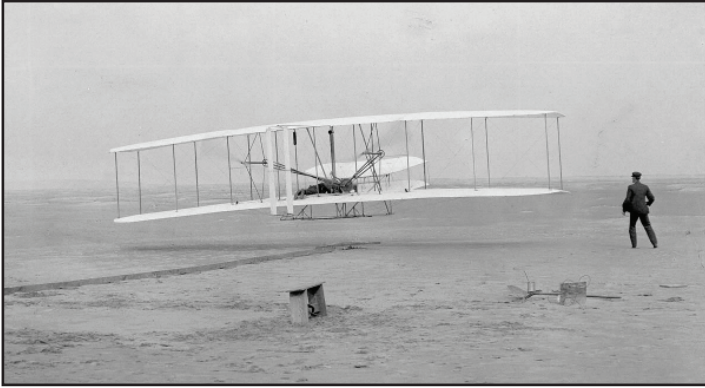


# Celebrating Orville Wright's Birthday

## National Aviation Day - August 19

The holiday was established in 1939 when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt issued a presidential proclamation which designated the anniversary of Orville Wright's birthday to be National Aviation Day.



*An image of the Wrights' first powered flight near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, December 17, 1903. Photo by John T. Daniels.*

Orville Wright, the younger of the two legendary Wright Brothers, born in 1871, was still alive when the proclamation was first issued, and would live another nine years.

Each year the President may issue a similar proclamation inviting the American people to commemorate

National Aviation Day by participating in activities to further stimulate interest in aviation across the United States. If you're not scheduled to fly anywhere on August 19<sup>th</sup>, some suggestions from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on ways to celebrate include:

- Visit your local science/aviation museum
- Watch an aviation-themed movie
- Take an introductory flight lesson
- Build an airplane - not necessarily one to fly in but anything from a model replica to folding paper into your own airborne creation!
- Read an aviation-themed book or,
- Have a plane spotting picnic near an airport.

In addition to National Aviation Day, in 1959, President Eisenhower declared December 17<sup>th</sup> as the Wright Brothers' Day to commemorate the first flight of Orville and Wilbur Wright in a mechanically-propelled aircraft at Kitty Hawk.

### **Newspaper Activities:**

Put yourself in the role of a newspaper reporter during the first flight at Kitty Hawk. Write a report of this new amazing mode of transportation for your readers. Remember to include the who, what, when, where and how of this historic event.

Look for an article in the newspaper that exemplifies the importance of air transportation in current times. How might our lives be different without air transportation? Share your findings and observations with your classmates.

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