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Fly Kansas Air Tour takes off across state

Starting Monday the Fly Kansas Air Tour takes to the skies and will visit nine Kansas communities in three days to promote multiple aspects of aviation.

The tour is part of the Kansas Aviation Expo which runs from Sept. 22-26 and coincides with Aviation Appreciation Week as proclaimed by Gov. Sam Brownback.

Students from the communities of Wellington, Hutchinson, Dodge City, Scott City, Salina, Topeka, Pittsburg and Independence will learn about agriculture, space exploration, helicopter piloting, flight simulator training, unmanned aerial systems, military aviation, business aviation and aircraft manufacturing on the different stops of the tour. The tour will conclude in Benton.

The Expo has also invited several hundred high school students to learn about career opportunities by exploring the 'Flying Classroom.' The classroom will take place following the air tour on Sept. 25, to demonstrate how STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) is used in aviation.

The same evening Amelia Rose Earhart will talk about her around-the-world flight and the Fly With Amelia Foundation that helps high school girls learn how to fly. Amelia Rose, who is not related to her name sake, recreated the route the earlier Earhart had charted for her 1937 attempt to fly around the world.

The schedule on Friday includes speakers from the FAA, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Associations and more.

For more information on the event, go to the Kansas Commission on Aerospace Education (KCAE) website, www.flykansas.org or the event's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/KansasAviationExpo.

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