

Yellowstone Airport Hosts End of the Year Field Trip for West Yellowstone Students

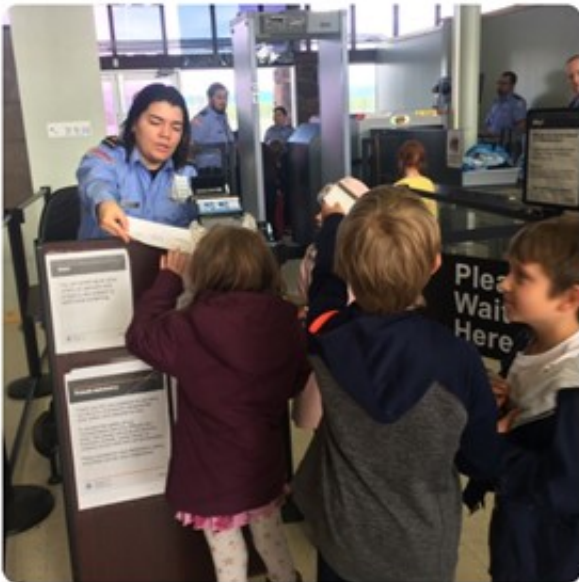
As the school year was winding down for the students at West Yellowstone Elementary School, a visit to the Yellowstone Airport gave the 1st and 4th graders an end-of-the-year activity to look forward to. This interactive field trip gave these students an opportunity to see what daily life is like at the airport including commercial aviation, general aviation, air ambulance operations and airport fire fighting.

On May 28, 2019, the 1st graders from West Yellowstone Elementary school arrived at the airport's Aircraft Rescue Firefighting (ARFF) station. For many of the students, this was their first trip to an airport. They were greeted by Airport Manager, Jeff Kadlec, Airport Operations Specialist, Bron Hansen, Airport Intern, Connery Ryon as well as two staff members from MDT Aeronautics Division in Helena. After introductions, the students were excited to see what the rest of the airport had to offer.

The group walked over to the terminal building where, at the SkyWest airlines ticket counter, they received a pretend boarding pass to different destinations around the world. Students then went through the security checkpoint. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officers gave the students insight into what goes on behind the scenes and showed them what the officer's computer screen looks like when luggage is going through the x-ray machines. The students then went out onto the ramp where they learned basic marshaling signals from the SkyWest operations employees and played a fun game with their newly learned skills. The group returned to the Yellowstone ARFF station where they split up into groups and rotated through three different activities including a tour of the Air Methods rescue helicopter, a brief flight simulator trial and a climb through

one of the airports two firetrucks. The students really seemed to enjoy the hands-on experience and even got to try out one of the hoses on the firetrucks as well as build their own mini wooden airplanes. In the afternoon the 4th graders got a chance to do a very similar tour.

Overall, the students from West Yellowstone Elementary School had a great time at the airport and many students remarked during the tour on how they wanted to go down a career path in Aviation.



*West Yellowstone Elementary School students.
Photo Credit:
Aeronautic Staff*