

Name: Nicholas Bettencourt

Q: What got you interested in aviation?

-I've been around airplanes a lot, and I've always wanted to know how they work, and how they get so high etc. plus the Experimental Aircraft Association came to Mt. Pleasant and did a presentation. I would look at the birds when I was little wishing I could fly just like them

Q: Do you already know anyone in this type of profession?

-My brother is in the Transportation Security Administration, part of the national security that keeps planes safe, and keeps terrorists off of planes.

Q: What about the trip to Wisconsin? What is that about?

-I was accepted by the EAA Air Academy for a scholarship to the annual national Oshkosh air show to represent the program from San Jose

Q: What kind of degree do you need for aviation?

-You would need an aeronautic engineering degree

Q: What do you have to do to prepare to become a pilot?

-You have to fly with a teacher for a certain amount of hours (approx. 90) and go through ground school, where you learn all the rules and stuff

Q: What's the most annoying thing about flying/traveling?

-Well if you aren't the pilot, I'd have to say security because it takes a while to get through. But being the pilot you just get in, although it may be hard to stay awake for so many hours, and keeping control of the plane the whole time.

Q: Why do you want to be a pilot?

-I've lived here in San Jose my entire life. I want to explore, and see the world. This place is a bit run down and there are ghettos. I want to see other places.

Q: What's the best thing about flying/traveling?

-The freedom. Not being held back from limitations. And seeing the world from a new perspective.

Q: What's holding you back (if you say the best thing about flying is the freedom)?

-Well in driving, there are a lot of rules, like don't cross the double yellow lines, and you have to go where the roads take you. When flying, you don't have to follow the roads, and there are rules, but not as many.