There are less than 150 black female pilots that fly professionally for the airlines and military combined. Our mission is to increase these numbers through scholarship, mentorship, and outreach. Our vision is to develop pathways and partnerships to help grow the number of black women in the professional pilot career field.

Our organization has approximately 100 members. Our membership is comprised mostly of professional pilots that are women of color. In order to become a member, one must possess a commercial pilot certificate/military equivalent and currently employed, retired, or seeking employment as a professional pilot.
About the Organization

History
Sisters of the Skies, Inc. (SOS) is a nonprofit 501c3 aviation organization that was founded in 2016 and incorporated in 2017.

Mission
To increase our sisterhood through scholarship, mentorship, and outreach.

Vision
To develop pathways and partnerships to increase the number of black women in the professional pilot career field.

Our Motto
"REACH FOR THE SKY"
Board of Directors

Captain Theresa Claiborne, United Airlines

President Emeritus

Theresa is from Emporia, VA and earned a degree in Media Communications from California State University of Sacramento. She is a Captain flying the Boeing 787 (Dreamliner) for United Airlines.

First Officer Nia Gilliam-Wordlaw, United Airlines

CEO

Nia is from Chicago, IL and earned a degree in Aviation Management from Southern Illinois University @ Carbondale (SIU). She is a First Officer flying the Boeing 777 for United Airlines.

First Officer Angel Hughes, UPS

Board Chair

Angel is from East Orange, NJ and earned a degree in Aviation Management and Flight Operations from Jacksonville University. She also has an MBA in Logistics and Supply Chain Management from Spring Hill College. Angel is a First Officer flying the Boeing 757/767 for UPS.

Captain Stephanie Grant, Express Jet Airlines

Vice Chair/Director of Development

Stephanie is from Sumter, SC and earned a degree in Psychology from Hampton University. She was a Captain flying the Embraer 145 for ExpressJet Airlines.
Board of Directors

First Officer Stephanie Hartsfield, American Airlines

Secretary

Stephanie is from Atlanta, GA and earned a degree in History and General Engineering from the United States Naval Academy. She is also a Commander in the US Navy Reserves. Stephanie is a First Officer flying the Airbus 320 for American Airlines.

Captain Tara Wright, Alaska Airlines

Treasurer

Tara is from the San Francisco Bay area and graduated Cum Laude and earned a degree in Aeronautical Science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. She is a Captain flying the Boeing 737 for Alaska Airlines.

First Officer Diana Lugemwa, FedEx Express

Webmaster

Diana is from Savannah, GA and earned a degree in Aerospace from Middle Tennessee State University. She is a First Officer flying the Airbus 300 for FedEx Express.
Our Initiatives

The question that is asked the most is, “Why are there so few black female professional pilots?” Our experience has taught us that the numbers are dismal because of the lack of exposure, funding, and role models/representation. Our focused initiatives are based on these three areas.

01 Exposure

Girls Rock Wings (GRoW) is our annual one-day aviation/STEM outreach program where we expose girls of color between the ages of 10-18 years of age to the field of aviation. They will have a discovery flight with a Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) who is a woman of color; tour an air traffic control tower; develop a flight plan and fly that flight plan in a simulator; and tour a static display. In 2018 and 2019, our GRoW event was held in Houston, TX at the Lone Star Flight Museum. We are currently in the planning phase to host a GRoW in South Florida in November of 2021 and in Houston, Texas in the spring of 2022. To date, we have exposed over 100 girls to the field of aviation through our GRoW outreach.

02 Funding

Flight training can cost upwards of six figures and is a separate expense from college tuition. We have been able to award over $74,000 in scholarships. Most of our scholarship dollars have been awarded during our annual scholarship fundraising gala. Our first scholarship gala was held in Atlanta, Georgia in 2019, and in February 2020, our second annual gala was held in San Francisco, California. We will host a virtual gala in September 2021 and our annual scholarship gala will return in February of 2022 in Atlanta, Georgia. Details of the event will be on our website, www.sistersoftheskies.org under the events tab. We are actively working on funding $100,000 in flight-training scholarships this year. Individuals, companies, and organizations that would like to donate or discuss the details of our fundraising initiative or to become a sponsor, please email giving@sistersoftheskies.org.

03 Mentorship

Our mentorship program was birthed out of the need for role models and representation-“If YOU can SEE it, YOU can BE it!” To date, we have had approximately 60 mentees join our program and some have since become members. They are paired with an SOS mentor and will participate in the yearly or accelerated program. Any questions about our mentorship program can be sent to mentors@sistersoftheskies.org.
Brand Guidelines

Primary Logos

Sisters of the Skies
Sisters of the Skies Organization
SOS

Alternate Names

Sisters of the Skies
Sisters of the Skies Organization
SOS

Colors

SOS logo colors are purple (representing the ambitious woman who attains a pilot position that is rare in nature); and blue (representing the color of the sky and the depth of our intellectual space).

Hex: 8c19a4  Hex: 8c19e4  Hex: 2d1bbe  Hex: e15f99  Hex: aa2f7f
Downloadable Digital Files

Use the links below to download our official logos.

Download Logos

Download
Notable Press

GOOD MORNING AMERICA

BLOOMBERG

THE KELLY CLARKSON SHOW
Social Media Links

Instagram
INSTAGRAM.COM/SISTERSOFTHESKIES

Facebook
FACEBOOK.COM/SISTERSOFTHESKIES/

YouTube
YOUTUBE.COM/CHANNEL/UCK84TZVWW4I7ZVAEILZEG-G
Event Photos

Please contact us directly for access to photos for public and media usage.
FAQs

Below are some of the most frequently asked questions that our organization receives.

**I want to become a pilot, how do I begin?**

It all begins with a simple discovery flight. A Google search for "discovery flights near me" can get you started.

**Does SOS offer scholarships?**

Our organization does offer scholarships. Scholarships are awarded during our annual scholarship fundraising gala and other various times of the year. The information and the requirements to apply can be found under the "scholarship" tab. If the window is currently closed, we recommend you check back for updates.

**Does SOS offer any programs to navigate the aviation process?**

Our organization does offer a mentorship program. This is an opportunity for aspiring minority women pilots to be connected with and foster a relationship with minority women professional pilots who have already been where the aspiring pilot is trying to go.

**Where can I find a local flight school?**

Below you’ll find a link with information on local flight schools in your area.
Sisters of the Skies, Inc.
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Suite #111-201
Pearland, TX 77584
1-855-SOS-FLYS
EIN: 82-3401289

ALL MEDIA INQUIRIES
pr@sistersoftheskies.org

Mentorship Program
mentors@sistersoftheskies.org

Sponsorships, Fundraising & Donations
giving@sistersoftheskies.org

Membership Inquiries
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General Inquiries
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