

Solo Cross-Country Pre-Flight Planning

WHAT YOU MUST HAVE WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT THE AIRPORT:

1. Government Issued Photo ID
2. Student Pilot Certificate
3. FAA Medical Certificate (and Basic Med - if applicable)
4. Pilot Logbook with proper endorsements
 - § 61.93(c)(1&2) - Initial solo cross-country flight
 - § 61.93(c)(3) - Specific Solo cross-country flight (given on the day of a cross country)
 - § 61.87(n) - Solo flight (first 90-day period) or § 61.87(p) (each additional 90-day period)
5. Personal Equipment – Plotter, E6B, Sun Glasses, Clothing, Water Bottle, possibly Headset & batteries

FAA Approved Weather Briefing – from wxbrief.com or ForeFlight or by calling a briefer

Weather Minimums (actual and forecast - at least 2 hours beyond the expected completion of the flight):

1. Lowest cloud layer (not Ceiling) along the route 4500' AGL (KGON) & 6500' AGL (other)
2. Forecast Temperature – Min 25* & Max 90* Fahrenheit
3. Visibility - 10 sm Surface winds - 15 kts X-Wind - 7 kts

Navigation Log & Planning:

1. Current NY Sectional with course plotted, landmarks noted, and properly folded
2. Fully Completed and Separate Navigation Logs for each leg of the flight
(If you have an early morning flight, you can use the Winds Aloft forecast from the night before and you will only need to alter your planning if they are “Significantly” different in the morning)
3. Power Setting - 2300 rpm (about 60%, which is almost 5 hours Endurance. Fly slow - it is PIC time!)
4. VFR Cruising Altitudes: (Magnetic vs. True, Compass)
5. Know when to get ATIS? Descend to traffic pattern altitude? Contact Tower (if not handed off)
6. Be sure to have a “Major Landmark” that will help you find your destination
7. Destination airport(s) – Diagram, Field Elev, Traffic pattern entry expected, and Traffic Pattern Altitude
8. Know the plan for your Full Stop Taxi Back (airport diagrams printed)
9. Be Ready for Contingencies – weather, visibility/haze, mechanical, radios (divert options, etc.)
10. Takeoff and Landing Distances for all airports and Weight & Balance Complete
11. Know the "Target" hobbs time this flight

Long Island Flying Safety Policies:

1. 10-day rule - student must have flown with a CFI within the last 10 days
2. 30-day rule - student must have flown a Cross-Country within the last 30 days
3. Solo Flights must be completed at least 1.5 hours before Sunset
4. Full Fuel and know your power settings and Aircraft Endurance (and what to do if there are delays)
5. Call Sign “Student Pilot” - use once per controller (no need to repeat every time)
6. Communications/GPS review – Flight Following -
7. Life jacket on board
8. All Landings should be Full Stop, Taxi Back to runway (No Touch and Goes)
(When you reach the hold-short line for departure at each destination, you don’t have to do another run-up, just the hold-short checklist (and be sure to flight planning ready for your next leg))
9. IMSAFE checklist
10. Remember – FLY THE PLANE – Stabilized Approaches – Going Around is always an option
11. Know the plan upon returning to the tie-down – keys/clipboard, tie-down, logbook, etc.