

Becoming A Drone Operator

By Spencer Smith --- 2/11/2026

How do I get started and where to go to learn if I want to learn about legally flying a drone?

The first thing you must do is go to the FAA website to learn about what is needed to get a Recreational License, learn the regulations, and register your drone, (if you already own one). Here is a link to the FAA for you to start with.

<https://www.faa.gov/uas> (scroll down to Recreational Flyers to start) or https://www.faa.gov/uas/recreational_flyers

FAA all you need to know about drones (really)

If after seeing all the material in front of you and are still thinking about flying a drone or UAV next you may want to look at the

FAA DroneZone page. (link below)

<https://faadronezone-access.faa.gov/#/>

Here you can create an account which you will need now or later. There is a link on the right hand side that says Register Your Drone. If you have one to register that weighs under 55 pounds you may register it here. The fee is currently \$5.00 and this will cover all drones if a Recreational flyer.

The next thing you must do before you can legally fly a drone is take and pass the T.R.U.S.T. test. The law requires that all recreational flyers pass an aeronautical knowledge and safety test and provide proof of passage if asked by law enforcement or FAA personnel. The Recreational UAS Safety Test (TRUST) was developed to meet this requirement. The TRUST test is free and you must score a 100% to pass. Be sure you download your certificate when completed as you need a copy of it when you fly.

Next you should download the FAA's B4UFLY service shows where recreational flyers can and cannot fly. This is not a requirement but a very helpful app for your phone or computer, and it is free.

I use the Aloft air aware app. For B4UFLY---works well and very easy to use.

If you need to fly within any controlled airspace you must get FAA permission. The great thing about the Aloft app is you can connect directly and get your LAANC --Low Altitude Authorization and Notification Capability (LAANC) clearance from the app.

Low Altitude Authorization and Notification Capability (LAANC)

LAANC provides:

- **Drone pilots with access to controlled airspace at or below 400 feet.**
- **Awareness of where pilots can and cannot fly.**
- **Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR) information and updates to the Special Use Airspace (SUA) schedule.**
- **Air Traffic Professionals with visibility into where and when drones will operate.**

So if you still want to fly a drone legally,

Pass your TRUST test

- 1. Register and mark your drone.**
- 2. Download the B4UFLY app.**
- 3. Follow all applicable regulations.**

Enjoy your new hobby and fly safely. I will try to help with your questions if possible.