

# GUIDELINES RELATED TO UNMANNED AIRCRAFT (DRONES)

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## **Review of Proposals to Authorize Operation of a Drone within District Programs or Activities for an Educational Purpose**

The administrative approval of a proposal or request to operate a drone within a District program or activity for an educational purpose is a discretionary decision. Authorization for any such operation of drone must be requested and obtained prior to the proposed operation of any drone(s).

A proposal or request to operate a drone within a District program or activity for an educational purpose **shall be denied** if any of the following apply::

1. Assuming the proposal would involve the outdoor operation of a drone for an educational purpose under the federal rules that apply to recreational flying, the requester fails to clearly identify or confirm all of the following to the satisfaction of the approving administrator:
  - a. The specific set of safety guidelines, developed by a qualifying community-based organization (CBO), under which the proposed drone operations will occur. Possible examples include the guidelines of the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) or the guidelines of the Flite Test Community Association (FTCA).
  - b. That any supervising adult who provides instruction related to the operation of a drone and/or who may be called upon to directly intervene in the operation of a drone, as well as all persons who will operate the drone will have passed and will carry confirmation of passage of the applicable aeronautical knowledge and safety test.
  - c. That the proposal is strictly limited to operations for a qualifying educational/recreational purpose.
  - d. That the location in which the drone operations will occur has been identified/confirmed as "Class G" (uncontrolled) airspace, as designated by the FAA.
2. The proposal would involve the operation of a drone outdoors before sunrise or after sunset, unless it is conclusively shown to the satisfaction of the approving administrator that the applicable CBO safety guidelines being followed address night flight as contemplated by the proposal and that the operations can reasonably comply with the applicable guidelines.
3. The proposal would involve the operation of a drone, of any weight, directly above or otherwise unreasonably proximate to any person, not directly participating in the operation of the drone, who is not protected by a covered structure. Unreasonably proximate means near enough that, taking into account, the weight and safety features of the drone, the drone operation would pose an undue hazard, including in the event of a loss of control of the aircraft for any reason.

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4. The proposal would involve the operation of a drone directly above or otherwise unreasonably proximate to (a.) unprotected vehicles (including moving vehicles), **or** (b.) any structures or other property on District grounds that would be vulnerable to unacceptable damage in the event of an accidental collision with the proposed drone.
5. The proposal would involve the operation of a drone from, or occurring above, non-District property (including other public property) where permission has not been obtained from the property owner **or** where the operation from or above non-District property would occur directly above, or otherwise unreasonably proximate to, any unprotected person who is not directly participating in the operation of the drone, any unprotected vehicles, or any other property or structures to which the drone would pose an undue hazard.
6. The proposal would involve the operation of a drone without the presence of a knowledgeable District employee or other responsible adult who is acting as a District-authorized supervisor of the activity and the participants.

As to any drone operations for an educational purpose that are authorized by an administrator, the adult(s) acting as the supervisor of the activity on behalf of the District are responsible for implementing the activity in a manner that does not involve a violation of the above-stated parameters that lead to the denial of requests/proposals.

Additional factors that would generally weigh **against** the possible approval of a proposal to operate a drone for an educational purpose include the following:

1. The primary purpose of the proposed drone operation would be to photograph or otherwise record people (due to both safety and privacy concerns).
2. Any proposed operator of a drone is not at least **13 years old**.
3. Any drone that would be operated under the proposal is not equipped with propeller guards, although the size of the drone and other specific circumstances of the proposed use will be considered in applying this factor.

Factors that would generally weigh **in favor of** approval of a proposal to operate a drone for an educational purpose include the following:

1. A clear educational objective for the project or activity has been identified that goes beyond a desire to simply capture images or video for creative purposes.
2. Indoor or outdoor operations are proposed to occur under supervised and well-controlled conditions, including in an area that, for the duration of the activity, has been specifically and exclusively designated for the flight of the drone(s) and that would be unlikely to be materially damaged in the event of an accidental collision with the drone. An example would be a large field, not presently being used for other activities, that allows for both room to operate the drone as well as an identified buffer zone.

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3. For any proposal to operate a drone indoors, there is an established set of written safety guidelines that will apply to the activity. (See above regarding requirements for guidelines for outdoor drone operations.)
4. The drone that would be operated, inclusive of all cargo and attachments, would weigh not more than **10 pounds** if operated outdoors or not more than **2 pounds** if operated indoors.
5. The drone(s) proposed to be used are District-owned and District-maintained.
6. The District is able to confirm that District liability and property damage insurance applies to the proposed drone operations.

### **Responding to the Unauthorized, Dangerous, or Unlawful Operation of a Drone**

If a drone is being operated (or if a person is intending or attempting to operate a drone) on or above District property or in connection with the District-sponsored event or activity in a manner that is, or that appears to be, in violation of District policy, inconsistent with any approval given by the District, or in a manner that is (1) careless or reckless, (2) imminently dangerous or damaging to persons or property, (3) materially interfering with how District-controlled property is currently being used, (4) invasive of a person's privacy, or (5) otherwise potentially unlawful, then an administrator or another District employee or authorized agent of the District may take such action as is reasonable to address and alleviate the situation, including any of the following:

1. Identifying the operator of the drone and requesting the person to cease the activity.
2. Temporarily or indefinitely suspending a District activity that is being affected by the operation of the drone.
3. Referring the incident for further administrative or supervisory evaluation and response, including possible disciplinary action.
4. If the drone is being operated from District-owned or District-controlled property, informing the operator that the operation of the drone is not authorized and must immediately cease. A person in possession of, operating, or attempting to operate a drone in an unauthorized or unlawful manner may be denied admittance to or ejected from such property by any administrator or by a designated staff member or other responsible adult who is acting on behalf of the District as an on-site supervisor at the time of the incident.
5. Taking pictures or video of a drone, of any drone registration number, or of the drone's operations to assist with the documentation of specific concerns.
6. Contacting law enforcement or federal regulatory personnel. Contacting local law enforcement can be particularly appropriate whenever there is a concern with trespass, disorderly conduct, reckless conduct, actual injury or actual property damage, privacy violations, harassment, or other violation of state law.

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**Adoption Date:**