

Experience of a lifetime

Written by Chris Lee

For someone who knows almost every line of every Indiana Jones movie ever made, meeting Harrison Ford should probably be at the very top of their to-do list. For HHS freshman Rachel Schneider, she got to cross that item off her list Saturday, Nov. 14. Flying as Ford's co-pilot—she crossed that off her list too.

Schneider along with parents John and Lynn, traveled to Denver's Centennial Airport for the event. Ford was there to speak with kids about his time with aviation.

Toward the end of September, John heard something on the news about Ford going to Denver. Wings over the Rockies museum was honoring Ford with the Spreading Wings award for his contribution to aviation and flight.

There was a contest and the first 250 kids who took in models of planes got entered into a drawing. Rachel took a Lego model of the Flying Wing from Raiders of the Lost Ark. Names were drawn at the end of October and by early November, Rachel received an e-mail notifying her that she was one of the winners.

The drawing was for a ride with a pilot. Rachel got lucky. Her pilot was Ford.

It was a brisk morning but the snow held off and planes were able to fly. Schneider's job during her flight—hold Ford's coffee while sitting in the co-pilot's seat next to him.

"Awesome," Rachel said, explaining the experience.

She said listening to the radio and what pilots hear while flying was fun and interesting.

While Rachel was sitting pretty in the front seat of Ford's DeHavilland Beaver airplane, four other lucky kids were behind her in the plane. She said a lot of people asked Ford about his movies.

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Rachel said they flew around Denver for about 20 minutes before landing back at the airport.

In all, about 40-50 lucky kids were able to go up into the air with different pilots.

Lynn said there were some other activities for the kids to do such as a flight simulator.

Rachel said she has been showing everyone the photo of her with Ford. She can probably say she is the only student at HHS to have met him.

Harrison Ford starred as Indiana Jones in the 1980s movies: Raiders of the Lost Ark, Temple of Doom and Last Crusade, as well as Kingdom of the Crystal Skull in 2008.