

# Mitch Coates

## Chief Pilot

**Certified Flight Instructor** (CFI)

**Certified Flight Instructor Instrument** (CFII)

**Multi-Engine Instructor** (MEI)

**Airline Transport Pilot** (ATP)

**Qualified in: C172 Skyhawk C172 (180hp) C182 Skylane BE-S35 Bonanza PA34-200T Seneca**

Mitch Coates, our Chief Pilot, found his love for flying in a special moment at Pasco Airport. He was there to see his family off on a flight to Salt Lake City when the flight got delayed. Mitch's mom asked if he could visit the cockpit, and the pilots said yes. Up there, he saw all the buttons, lights, and met two pilots who shared their love for flying with him. That moment made him look up whenever an airplane flew by.

Mitch's journey into flying began with a trial flight at Bergstrom Aircraft, and he realized that flying was his calling. He later attended a school in Tulsa, Oklahoma, to learn more about aviation. But flight training costs added up, so he came back home, went to college at Columbia Basin College, and then graduated from Washington State University.

Mitch finished his flight training at Bergstrom Aircraft and became a Certified Flight Instructor. He taught flying for about a year and a half before American Eagle Airlines called him to fly their Embraer 145 planes. He flew all over the United States, Mexico, and Canada for four years before deciding to spend more time with his wife and kids.

When he's not at the airport, Mitch has a full-time job with the City of West Richland. He's been married to his wife, Sarah, for 16 years, and they have three great daughters who love sports. Even with their busy lives, the Coates family finds time to go camping in the Pacific Northwest and Southwest, with the Redwoods as their favorite spot.

Mitch's true passion is teaching people how to be safe pilots. He has a simple and effective training program, and he really enjoys seeing the people he's trained become confident pilots.