Drones: Top 3 Compared

A drone is a small flying camera. It takes off, hovers in the air, and shows you the picture live on your phone screen while you steer it. People use them for overhead photos of family gatherings, beautiful shots of the beach or the lake, and checking the roof or gutters after a storm — without climbing a ladder.

Today's beginner drones practically fly themselves: they hover in place on their own, warn you when the battery runs low, and can fly back to you by themselves at the press of a button.

The top 3

- 1. DJI Mini 4K — about $269.
- 2. DJI Neo — about $139.
- 3. DJI Flip — about $439. The step-up pick. A bigger camera sensor, so photos and video look noticeably better in low light. It can sense obstacles in front of it and stop by itself — much harder to crash. About 31 minutes per battery, and propeller guards are included.

What to compare, in plain words

- Camera: 4K means a very sharp picture. The gimbal (Mini 4K and Flip) is what keeps video smooth — it matters more than megapixels.
- Flight time: 15 to 31 minutes per battery. Short flights are normal — that is why spare batteries exist.
- Obstacle sensing: only the Flip can see things in front of it and stop on its own. The others need you to steer around trees and wires.
- Weight: all three are under 250 grams (about half a pound). That number matters for the rules below.

The rules, in simple words

- All three drones weigh under 250 grams, so for fun flying you do not need to register with the FAA.

- You do need to pass the TRUST test — a free online safety quiz from the FAA that takes about 30 minutes.
- Keep the drone where you can see it, stay under 400 feet, and never fly over people or near airports.
- Rules can change — check the FAA's website before you fly.

Beginner advice

1. Start in a big, open field — not a backyard full of trees.
2. Learn the return-to-home button first. One press and the drone flies back to you and lands by itself.
3. Charge the battery fully before every flight, and land when the app warns you the battery is low.
4. One note for Android phones: the DJI Fly app is no longer in the Google Play Store — you download it from DJI's own website instead.

When to call Sean instead

- You want help picking the right drone before you buy.
- Setting up the app or pairing the controller has you stuck.
- You want a walkthrough of the TRUST test.
- You would like someone beside you for the very first flight.

Call Sean at (813) 770-6082.

Need a hand? Call Sean at **(813) 770-6082**.