



2021 BALLOON CLASSIC PILOT INFORMATION

JULY 30, 31, & AUGUST 1

The Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce and its Events Department will continue planning for the 2021 Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival Balloon Classic. As we monitor the CDC and the Ohio Department of Health data, we will adapt our plans for health safety. Our website and social media will post frequent updates. We will be taking steps to help protect you and your family's health by following all applicable guidelines and recommendations concerning COVID-19 safety.

Please read this document in its entirety before submitting your Pilot Application Form online. Please pay close attention to this year's event information and pilot amenities.

Invitation

We would like to invite you to Canton, Ohio, on **July 30, July 31, & August 1, 2021** for the Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival Balloon Classic. You will be warmly welcomed by enthusiastic spectators throughout the weekend activities.

About the Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival

The Enshrinement Festival features diverse events enjoyed over two and a half weeks. Highlights of the activities include the Balloon Classic, NFL/Hall of Fame Game, Enshrinees' Gold Jacket Dinner, The Canton Repository Grand Parade, Enshrinement Ceremony, and Concert for Legends. All of these festivities are for the purpose of celebrating the enshrinement of a new class into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Event Classification

The Balloon Federation of American (BFA) has published ***Balloon Event Guidelines***. We intend to adhere to the principles and safety issues outlined in that publication. In evaluating our event regarding the event classification system provided by this publication, the Event Director and Safety Officer are in agreement that this event would be classified as Advanced (Level 3). Pilot applicants should become familiar with the BFA publication and be comfortable with the suggested pilot skill set required for this type of event.

Entry Fee

All participating pilots must submit with their application a non-refundable entry fee of \$100. Make all checks payable to Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Event Amenities

Participating pilots receive: propane (arrive full, leave full); first class hotel accommodations; breakfasts and dinners; competition, a prize package totaling \$24,550; guaranteed minimum \$300 travel stipend as part of overall prize money and \$25 stipend toward the cost of your BFA/HACD competition card (not applicable to corporate/commercial or special shape balloons).

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be assessing and adhering to the safety procedures put in place for food service. Final meal details will be sent you to at a later date.

If no flights at all or if the only flight flown is the Friday evening sponsor flight, all sport pilots will receive their guaranteed travel stipend of \$300. If one or more competitive flights are flown, all task prize money will be paid out.

Application Information (Deadline: June 7, 2021)

The pilot application will be available in the online format, which can be submitted electronically at, <https://www.profootballhoffestival.com/balloon-classic-fireworks-pilot-application>. The deadline is June 7, 2021. Please contact Andrea Hartman, Director of Events, at andrea@cantonchamber.org or 330-458-2054 if you prefer a paper application.

Participation in this year's event is budgeted at **fifty-four (54)** balloons and, based on available sponsors, that number may be slightly adjusted. We will be sending acknowledgement letters to accepted pilots no later than June 30, 2021. You will be notified

at that time if you have been accepted into the event as a participating pilot as well as Media Flight or Night Glow, if you choose to register for these activities. Although applications are accepted based on a number of criteria, we encourage you to submit your application early as pilot demand for the Balloon Classic has been growing each year. We will maintain a waiting list once we have reached our limit.

Pilot Selection Criteria

Those participating in prior years' events, demonstrating experience with congested flying, assigned sponsor feedback and early registrants are only a few of the attributes the Committee considers when accepting pilot applications. Decisions of the Committee relative to participants are final. **Flying in this event involves congested areas, and pilots registering should be comfortable with this type of flying.**

Sanctioning

Pilots registering to compete as part of a Team must hold a BFA/HACD competition card. Cost of a card for a first-time holder is just \$25 while renewal cards for previous card holders are \$55. The HACD also offers a special price for those under the age of 30 – just \$35. If you are not a BFA member and don't hold an HACD competition card, you must apply for one with the BFA and provide your number before your application is considered complete. You may apply online by clicking this link: [BFA/HACD Membership Card Application](#). Most competitive events over the years have had a similar requirement and in an effort to support this concept the **Balloon Classic will reimburse each Team Competitor \$25 toward the cost of the card.** Pilots will receive the reimbursement at Friday on-site registration. Fiesta pilots are not required to hold a BFA/HACD competition card nor will they receive this stipend.

Insurance

The Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival requires that each participating pilot name the sponsoring organization, Championship Director and Safety Officer as additionally insured on their policy. **You must submit a copy of your insurance policy endorsement listing the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce/Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival as "Additionally Insured" by July 2, 2021.**

Every pilot is required to have a minimum of \$1,000,000 combined single limit coverage, \$100,000 minimum property damage, and \$100,000 minimum passenger liability for each passenger.

On-site Registration

Registration for all pilots will be held on Friday, July 30, 2021 from 2:00 to 5:15 p.m. at the Kent State University Stark Conference Center at Kent State Stark's campus. All pilot packs, tickets, maps, banners, etc. will be distributed at that time. If you find that you will be unable to make registration by 5:15 p.m., you must make alternate arrangements, by calling Lynn Sullivan (330) 323-4673.

Balloon and pilot documents (pilot certificate, annual inspection, balloon registration and airworthiness certificate) will be examined during on-site registration. Pilots will be asked to provide documentation that they have a current flight review and are current in accordance with 14 CFR part 61, §61.56 and §61.57. In addition, upon signing the pilot application, the pilot certifies that they have no known medical, mental or physical impairments or conditions nor are they taking prescription or over the counter drugs/medications that may impair their ability to safely fly their aircraft.

Corporate/Commercial Balloons

A Corporate/Commercial Balloon is a balloon which carries advertising for a particular product, company, service, or identifiable artwork, logos, etc. Corporate/Commercial entries are broken down into two categories: national and local. A national corporate/commercial entry fee is \$1,500 and local corporate/commercial entry fee is \$1,200.

Entry fees for corporate/commercial special shape balloons are negotiable. Please contact Andrea Hartman at (330) 458-2054 for details concerning commercial special shape entries. E-mail may be addressed to Andrea at andrea@cantorchamber.org.

Room Accommodations

Courtyard by Marriott (330) 494-6494
4375 Metro Circle NW, North Canton, OH 44720

All registered pilots receive one (1) complimentary room at the Courtyard by Marriott in Canton. The Courtyard is located across the street from the primary launch field and Kent State Stark University. Propane refueling and scheduled meals are located within a one-mile radius of the hotel and primary launch field. The complimentary pilot's room is available for Friday, July 30, and Saturday, July 31, with check-out being Sunday, August 1.

Cancellations

Our hotel contract specifies that June 30th is the last day to cancel a hotel room; **therefore, if we cannot find a pilot to replace you and assume your reservation**, you will be required to pay the full room fees and your entry fee of \$100 will not be refunded due to cancelation after June 29, 2021.

Social Events

Five (5) complimentary tickets will be provided to each pilot for themselves and their crew for each of our continental breakfasts and evening socials. Meals included are: Friday evening dinner, Saturday morning breakfast, Saturday evening dinner, Sunday morning breakfast, and Sunday morning awards brunch. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be assessing and adhering to the safety procedures put in place for food service. Final meal details will be sent you to at a later date.

Volunteer Crew

We make every effort to provide local crew should you need such. It is imperative that you indicate on the Pilot Application the number of crew members you would like us to provide for each scheduled flight. If you are provided local crew, we ask that you provide them with the complimentary meal tickets that are given to you or purchase additional tickets as needed.

Maps

Each participating pilot is provided one official full color competition map. Once finalized, a digital version (jpg file) of the competition map will be posted to the Enshrinement Festival's website and available for downloading.

Passengers

Absolutely no paid passenger rides are permitted during the event. We are flying all flights under a standard FAA waiver and it specifically prohibits paid passenger rides. ALL passengers and crew must sign the FAA waiver and have a wristband to have access to the launch field. No exceptions.

Sponsor waiver forms will be handled by event staff but pilots should verify that sponsor passengers have signed the required documents before the flight.

Flight crew are also required to sign the FAA approved Designated Flight Crew form and Release of Liability. These forms will be provided to you at on-site registration. You may turn in a single form containing the signatures of all your crew at the Friday general briefing or propane refueling.

Scheduled Flight Activities

Media Flight

The Media Flight is scheduled for the morning of Friday, July 30 at which time participants are expected to fly local media representatives, sponsors, and VIP guests. There are a limited number of spaces and first consideration will be given to special shape and corporate/commercial pilots. All participants receive propane, and accepted participants who are traveling more than 50 miles will receive a complimentary room for Thursday evening.

Sponsor Flight

Friday evening's flight is a fun flight with the sponsor. There is a \$3,000 cash grab available to the fly-in pilots and a hare and hound race. All team competitors are expected to fly in and all Fiestas will fly out.

The Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival and Balloon Classic sponsors provide an outstanding venue, accommodations, prize funds, and many amenities for participating pilots and crew. For many of our sponsors, the Friday Sponsor Flight is a critical element in their sponsorship package. We also understand that asking pilots to carry a sponsor rider during a competitive flight may not be in everyone's best interest. Sponsors are advised that this ride must be taken on Friday evening. ***Failure to provide the Sponsor Ride may result in forfeiture of any prize money.*** Self-sponsored corporate pilots are not required to carry Enshrinement Festival sponsors. All pilots will be matched up with their sponsor during the Friday pilot briefing at the Kent State University Stark Conference Center. Friday evening is the only time a sponsor rider may receive their ride. ***If the Friday flight is cancelled for any reason, pilots have no further obligation to provide a sponsor ride. In fact, we ask that you do not provide a ride in this case.***

Night Glow

The Night Glow is planned for 9:30 p.m. Friday evening with space limited to sixteen (16) participants. Priority for Glow participation will be given to corporate/commercial and special shape balloons. A separate prize fund for sport glow balloons has been established with a minimum prize of \$50. If you are interested in participating, please indicate on the Pilot Application Form. This is an extremely well attended and photographed event and one that corporate and special shape entrants will not want to miss.

Competitive Flights

Team competitive flights are scheduled for Saturday morning and evening and Sunday morning. As in the past, team competitors will be flying under Event Team competition rules sanctioned by the BFA. Tasks qualifying for individual inclusion in the National Eligibility List will be submitted to the BFA.

Race Format

This is a Team Competition and will be scored using Team Scoring software. Each team is comprised of three pilots and balloons. If you wish to fly the event and don't have a Team, we will assist in arranging one for you. Each Team consists of "A", "B", and "C" ranked pilots. Pilots are ranked as follows:

- "A" Any past US National or World Champion; those finishing more than once in the top 15 in any of the last five (2015-2019) US National Championships.
- "B" Any pilot having participated in a US Nationals 2 or more times in the past six (6) years not classified as an "A" or finishing in the top fifteen (15) of the BFA National Eligibility System in any 3 of the last 5 years
- "C" Any pilot not classified as "A" or "B". Does not have to be on the current NEL list but must be a BFA/HACD member at time of the event

A team may not have more than one A-ranked pilot. The Event Director will carefully screen team applications to avoid any effort to stack a team with all highly skilled competitors. Recognizing that a primary purpose of a team competition is to encourage new pilots and promote the educational and development benefits of combining pilots of various skill levels on teams, team composition should strive to include one or two newer or less experienced competitors with an experienced seasoned competitor.

Prize Money Maximum - \$24,550

The available prize fund is based on 54 anticipated pilots and is broken down as follows. The available prize fund is subject to change based on actual number of participating pilots.

\$16,200: Team competitors

- See table.
- If no flights at all or if the only flight flown is the Friday evening sponsor flight, all team competitor pilots will receive their guaranteed travel stipend of \$300.
- If one or more competitive flights are flown, all task prize money will be paid out.

Prize Money Distribution			
Place	Teams	Fiesta	Glow
1st	\$3,300	\$600	\$100
2nd	\$2,700	\$500	---
3rd	\$2,400	\$400	---
4th	\$1,950	---	---
5th	\$1,650	---	---
6th – 12th	\$600	---	---
4th – 18th	---	\$200	---
2nd – 16 th	---	---	\$50
Total	\$16,200	\$4,500	\$850

\$4,500: Fiestas

- See table.
- If you are a fiesta pilot and do not want to compete please notify Maury Sullivan in advance.
- If no flights at all or if the only flight flown is the Friday evening sponsor flight, all fiesta pilots will receive their guaranteed travel stipend of \$300.
- If one or more competitive flights are flown, all task prize money will be paid out.

\$850 Glow

- Based on votes of selected spectators one sport balloon pilot will receive a prize of \$100 and a prize of \$50 will be paid to each sport balloon participant.

\$3,000: Evening pole grabs

- Cash pole grab with \$3,000 to the winner will be available on both Friday and Saturday evening fly-in tasks, unless someone wins it on Friday evening.

Event Officials

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|---|---------------------|
| Balloonmeister: | Maury Sullivan |
| Fiesta Director: | Paul Suttle |
| Assistant Scoring Officer/ Administrative Director: | Lynn Sullivan |
| Safety Officer: | Rob Wise |
| Assistant Safety Officer: | Ben Miller |
| Weather Officer: | Todd Fisher |
| Assistant Weather Officer: | Alex McCarthy |
| Scoring Officer: | Mike Gilligan |
| Volunteer Crew Coordination: | Sally Conley-Oyster |
| Landowner Relations: | Joe Carafelli |

Chamber Officials

VP Events & Development:
Director of Events:

Chris Gump
Andrea Hartman

PILOT ENTRY AGREEMENT

Including Acknowledgement of Responsibility and Release of Liability

I hereby declare that I am participating in the ***Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce, Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival Balloon Classic (Balloon Classic)*** on ***July 30-August 1, 2021*** of my own free volition. I agree that the organizers and sponsors of this event (including the ***Pro Football Hall of Fame Museum, the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce, Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival, Jackson Township, Kent State University, Stark State College***, event race officials, my sponsor or any employees, officers, trustees, agents and/or members of the above mentioned entities) are providing me with the facilities and means for my participation in this event and in no way do they supersede the responsibility of the pilot in command, as shown in CFR § 91.3(a) and elsewhere in the Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR's).

I hereby certify that I am aware of and agree with the responsibility legally transferred to me under the Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR's) as regards my personal decision to fly my balloon, and any bodily injury or property damage resulting therefrom is solely my liability, and that my decision as pilot in command may affect my placement in this event if I choose not to fly. **I understand that the pilot of each balloon has full and complete authority over the balloon and is responsible for all decisions to be made associated with the balloon on the ground and in the air.**

I certify that I am of sound mind and body and I have no medical, mental, or physical limitations or conditions that would limit or impair my ability to safely fly my aircraft. I am not taking prescription or over the counter drugs/medications that may impair my ability to safely fly my aircraft.

Officials of the ***Balloon Classic*** may supply information, guidance, or data and will use reasonable care to ensure the information is accurate and complete. However, the ***Balloon Classic*** assumes no responsibility for the completeness or accuracy of such information. It is my decision whether to rely on that information or acquire additional information. I agree that none of the flights are mandatory and that I will make all flights at my option.

I hereby agree to have in full force during the ***Balloon Classic*** a balloon insurance policy with minimum liability limits of \$1,000,000 each occurrence combined bodily injury and property damage, including passengers, but not less than \$100,000 each passenger.

I hereby give permission, without any restriction, to the ***Balloon Classic*** or its assigns, to use still and motion pictures and sound recordings of me, my balloon, equipment, chase crewmembers, employees and agents for news, advertising, promotional media and commercial uses.

It is my understanding that the organizers may inspect all balloons entered in the event; but that such inspection is only for the purpose of determining whether the aircraft complies with all rules of eligibility of said event. The approval of the balloon by said officials does not constitute a representation or warranty of any kind or character whatsoever concerning the mechanical condition of the aircraft, or whether or not it is airworthy.

It is my understanding that I must take one (1) person for a balloon ride on Friday evening as coordinated by the Balloon Classic Committee. I understand that sponsor rides lost due to cancellation of the flight by the Event Director due to unsuitable weather conditions or failure to show on the sponsor's behalf will end my responsibility to provide said ride. I also understand that I am not able to sell rides during the event, nor carry passengers for hire on any of the flights during the event.

I acknowledge that the ***Balloon Classic*** utilizes GPS loggers for purposes of scoring and monitoring participant's flights for adherence to event regulations regarding landowner relations and Prohibited Zone infractions. I agree to carry this GPS logger on all flights and conform to all rules related to its use. I also acknowledge financial responsibility for the device while under my control.

I agree that this Agreement is an Ohio contract and it is to be governed by the laws of the State of Ohio, and that I hereby submit myself to the jurisdiction of the Ohio courts concerning any claims arising out of the ***Balloon Classic*** or this Agreement. This Agreement, including the Conditions of Entry, General Information, Insurance and Hotel Reservation form, contains all the terms and conditions agreed to by the parties hereto, and no other agreements or discussions, oral or written, regarding the subject matter of the Agreement shall be deemed to exist or bind any of the parties hereto.

I, the pilot in command, hereby declare that I will fly in accordance with the event rules and regulations, abide by the FAR's, and fly entirely at my own risk and waive any right of action against the ***Balloon Classic***, the owner of the launch site, event race officials, my sponsor or any employees, officers, trustees, agents, and their respective members for any loss or damage sustained by me in consequence of any action or omission on their part, my part or the part of other participants.

Additionally, I acknowledge an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 and other diseases exists in any public place where people are present. COVID-19 is communicable disease that can lead to severe illness and death. By attending the ***Balloon Classic***, I voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID and other communicable diseases and will comply with all health and safety requirements in effect.

Thus, I release the organizers and sponsors of this event (including the ***Pro Football Hall of Fame Museum, the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce, Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival, Jackson Township, Kent State University, Stark State College***, event race officials, my sponsor or any employees, officers, directors, trustees, employees, volunteers, agents and sponsors and/or members of the afore-mentioned entities) from liability for their actions or inactions relating to the ***Balloon Classic*** which may arise out of or result from or in any manner be connected with the balloon flight or activity in which I participate as a pilot in command.

BY ONLINE APPLICATION SUBMISSION, I CERTIFY THAT ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE REGISTRATION IS ACCURATE AND I ACCEPT THE TERMS OF THIS ENTRY AGREEMENT.