



2022 BALLOON CLASSIC PILOT INVITATION

JULY 29, 30, & 31

Invitation

We would like to invite you to Canton, Ohio, on **July 29, July 30, & July 31, 2022** for the Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival Balloon Classic. You will be warmly welcomed by enthusiastic spectators throughout the weekend activities.

The Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce and its Events Department will continue planning for the 2022 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.

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 Competition 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. We will continue the success of a Marker Focused Team Competition. We encourage all pilots to use the BalloonLiveApp on their dedicated device(s) to achieve an electronic marker drop in case they are not able to achieve a physical marker drop at the target. Information on BalloonLiveApp may be obtained at <https://balloonlive.org/about-balloon-live/>. We will use WatchMeFly.Net as the Official Notice Board.

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).

If no flights are flown 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: April 15, 2022)

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 April 1, 2022. Please contact Megan Stangelo, Event Manager, at megans@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 April 30, 2022. 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. 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 holding a HACD competition card are eligible to have their eligible team task scores submitted to the HACD for inclusion in the NEL ranking system. Participants are not required to hold an HACD competition card.

Insurance

The Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival requires that each participating pilot name the sponsoring organization, event officials, venues and others directly involved in the organization and sponsoring of this event as additionally insured on their balloon insurance policy. Additionally insureds will include the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce/Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival, Pro Football Hall of Fame, Kent State University at Stark, Stark State College, its officers, directors and employees, Competition Director and Safety Officer as additionally insured on their policy. You must submit a copy of your insurance policy endorsement **by July 1, 2022.**

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 29, 2022 from 2:00 to 5:15 p.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott located at 4375 Metro Circle NW North Canton, Ohio 44720. 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) may be submitted to Lynn Sullivan via Cognito, or they will be examined during on-site registration. Once accepted for participation pilots will be sent a link for Cognito to submit their documentation. Pilots will be asked to provide documentation that they have a current flight review and are current in accordance with 14 CRF 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.

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 29, and Saturday, July 30, with check-out being Sunday, July 31.

Cancellations

Our hotel contract specifies that June 29th 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 28th 2022.

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 continental breakfast, Saturday evening dinner, Sunday morning continental breakfast, and Sunday morning awards brunch.

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 made available for downloading.

Passengers

Absolutely no paid passenger rides are permitted during the event. All flights are flown under a standard FAA waiver and it specifically prohibits paid passenger rides. All Pilots are required to sign the waiver acknowledging the fact that they have read and understand the waiver and have been briefed on its limitations.

Flight Crew

All flight crew (any one in the basket other than the registered pilot) will be required to sign the Pilot's Designated Flight Crew Form 2022. These Forms will be given to each pilot at Registration. Before each flight, any member of the flight crew flying with the pilot must sign this form. Pilots will return this form on Sunday Morning with their signed banners baggies etc. Failure to return the completed form may result in the forfeiture of prize money.

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

Wrist Bands

All persons on the Launch Field and Remote Target Areas are required to have the designated wristband visibly displayed for safety officials to see. Flight crew will obtain the wrist band once signing the Designated Flight Crew Form noted above. If you are on the Launch Field and do not have a wrist band you will be asked to sign the form at the Announcers Tent in the Southeast corner of the Launch Field .

Scheduled Flight Activities

Media Flight

The Media Flight is scheduled for the morning of Friday, July 29 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 25 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. Fiesta pilots may participate in 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. Sponsors are advised that this flight 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 Courtyard by Marriott. Friday evening is the only time a sponsor may receive their flight. ***If the Friday flight is cancelled for any reason, pilots have no further obligation to provide a sponsor flight. In fact, we ask that you do not provide a flight in this case.***

Night Glow

The Night Glow is planned for 9:00 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 HACD. Tasks qualifying for individual inclusion in the National Eligibility List will be submitted to the HACD.

Race Format

This is a Team Competition and will be scored using HACD 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 - \$24,500

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 are flown 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.

\$4,500: Fiestas

- See table.
- If you are a fiesta pilot and do not want to compete please notify Lynn Sullivan in advance.
- If no flights are flown 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. This prize is only paid once.

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

Event Officials

Balloonmeister Competition:
Balloonmeister Fiesta:
Chamber Liason:
Safety Officer:
Weather Officer:
Weather Officer:
Scoring Officer Competition:
Volunteer Crew Coordination:
Landowner Relations:

Paul Suttle
Ben Miller
Maury Sullivan
Rob Wise
Alex McCarthy
Duncan Dunavent
Lynn Sullivan
Sally Conley-Oyster
Joe Carafelli

Chamber Officials

VP Events & Marketing Strategies:
VP Of Development:
Event Manager:

Collyn Floyd
Chris Gump
Megan Stangelo

We look forward to another successful year of the Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival Balloon Classic!

Sincerely,



Paul Suttle

Balloonmeister Competition



Megan Stangelo

Event Manager