

## **Ballooning Procedures and Facts**

Information concerning participation on a hot air balloon flight follows: **Please read the following carefully.** You are encouraged to ask us to clarify anything that may not be clear to you.

### **The flight:**

Balloon flights are spectacular and extremely smooth. The sensation of lift off has been likened to the ground dropping away at your feet. Before leaving the ground the pilot will give you a briefing. It is important that you listen carefully and follow your pilots' instructions. Prior to landing it is particularly important that you are prepared and know what to expect. Be advised that when the balloon lands it is normal to experience a bump or series of bumps when the basket touches the ground. It is sometimes possible to experience some dragging of the basket while tipped on its side should the winds pick up. If you have a physical or psychological condition that would interfere with the safety of your ride or landing, you are advised not to take a balloon ride. If you have a question regarding a medical concern, please let us know. **You will be asked to sign a waiver.**

### **All Passengers Must:**

- 1.) Be able to get in and out of the balloon basket under his/her own power and be able to stand through out the duration of the flight.
- 2.) Be able to communicate with and receive instructions from the pilot.
- 3.) Be able to hold onto the basket and bend knees to absorb any impact on landing without collapsing. (A reasonable approximation of the endurance that may be called upon is the ability to jump off of a kitchen chair while holding something stable.)
- 4.) Be able to withstand the basket tipping over and dragging along the ground and the likelihood of other passengers bumping into or landing on top of them during landing.
- 5.) Be able to walk back to the retrieval vehicle after landing.
- 6.) Be a minimum of ten (10) years of age and tall enough to see out of basket.
- 7.) Be in good physical and psychological condition and general deportment (i.e. no recent surgeries – not pregnant – no known communicable diseases – no skeletal injuries or fractures – no physical or psychological impairments of any kind which would place him/herself and the other occupants of the balloon in danger of injury). Festival organizers and its pilots reserve the right to decline to accept any passengers should such persons health, age, physical condition or general deportment impede the operation and safety of those participating in a flight.

### **What to Wear:**

Dress in comfortable clothing according to the temperature of the day. Balloons land in open fields, so closed flat shoes or boots should be worn. Do not wear open shoes of any kind. Keep in mind that on morning flights there is always dew on the ground, so footwear will get wet. Clothing that will protect you from insect bites and or bramble thorns, is appropriate. Cotton fabrics are preferable to synthetics. Avoid clothing with hanging strings as they may get caught on the basket on entry or exit.

### **What to Bring:**

It is suggested that you bring as little as possible because of the room limitations in the basket. Ladies will have to hold onto their purses if taken aboard. It would be preferable if they could be safely left behind. Cameras can be brought but again must be held in hand. Large video equipment is not practical and you are discouraged from bringing these. Small Cam-Corders work better. The passenger's first responsibility must be to his or her stability and security at the time of landing, carry-ons must not be of such a nature to inhibit the rider's ability to perform this vital function. The pilot, festival and sponsors are not responsible for any personal belongings brought along on a balloon ride.

### **How Long Will the Flight Last:**

Launch times vary due to wind or weather conditions. All flights start subject to the wind and weather conditions of the day. Each flight varies in duration. Generally airtime will be between 45 and 75 minutes with another 30 to 60 minutes for landing and packing the balloon. Passengers will be returned to the starting point. All in all you should plan on a total of 2–3 hours. Be sure to allow yourself plenty of time so that you can really enjoy the experience of your balloon ride. Please keep in mind that there are no restroom facilities on board hot air balloons. Please plan ahead for your comfort.

**Our concern is that you be informed so you may have a safe enjoyable flight. Any concerns – let us know.**