



## 2017 Ohio Challenge, XV Pilot Information

*Please read this document in its entirety before submitting Pilot Application Form on/line.*

### The Ohio State Championship

#### Invitation

We would like to invite you to Middletown, Ohio for the 15th annual Ohio Challenge Hot Air Balloon Festival July 21-23, 2017

#### Application Information (Deadline: March 31, 2017)

Pilot applications must be submitted electronically no later than March

31, 2017) Should you require a paper application contact Ginger Bruggeman via email at [dgbruggs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dgbruggs@sbcglobal.net) or Phone 513-594-1438. Participation is limited to a maximum of forty (40) balloons and, based on available sponsors, that number may be reduced. We will be strictly adhering to this limitation. Pilots will be notified of acceptance no later than April 15, 2017

Although applications are accepted based on a number of criteria, we encourage you to submit your application early as pilot demand for The Ohio Challenge has been growing each year. We will maintain a waiting list once we have reached our limit.

#### Entry Fee

In addition to the electronic application, pilots must submit their entry fee in the form of check or money order. Entry fee must be postmarked by March 1st. Make checks payable to The Ohio Challenge and mail to:

The Ohio Challenge  
 Attn: Ginger Bruggeman/Pilot Services  
 c/o Middletown Chamber of Commerce  
 1500 Central Avenue  
 Middletown, OH 45044

\$75 for Sport Balloons and Fiesta Balloons /\$1,000 for Corporate/Logo balloons (nonrefundable)

#### Corporate Balloons

A Corporate Balloon is a balloon that carries advertising for a particular product, company, service, or identifiable artwork, logos, etc. The corporate/logo balloon entry fee is \$1,000. Entry fees for commercial special shape balloons may be negotiable. Please contact Kathy Stites, Event Manager at (513) 435-6361 for details concerning corporate/commercial entries. E-mail correspondence may be directed to info [contact@ohiochallenge.com](mailto:contact@ohiochallenge.com).

#### Pilot Selection Criteria

Those participating in prior years' events will be given first priority. Decision of the Committee relative to participants is final. Pilots will be notified of acceptance no later than April 15, 2017

**Sanctioning**

Pilots registering to compete as part of The Ohio State Championship must hold a BFA/HACD Competition card.

**Insurance**

The Ohio Challenge requires each participating pilot to name The Ohio Challenge as "Additional Insured". 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.

**Pilot Check-In**

Check-in for all pilots will be held Friday July 21 from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. at The Drury Inn hotel. All pilot packs, maps, banners, etc. will be distributed at that time. If you find that you will not be able to check-in by 4:30pm, you must make alternate arrangements by calling Ginger Bruggeman at (513) 594-1438.

**Hotel Accommodations**

The Drury Inn  
3320 Village Drive  
Middletown, Ohio 45005

The host hotel is located at 1-75 and State Route 122 (Middletown, Ohio - Exit 32). All registered pilots living outside a 30-mile radius of Smith Park/Middletown Regional Airport will receive one (1) complimentary room for Friday, July 21 and Saturday, 22 July. Additional rooms for family and crew may be made available at the negotiated group rate on a first-come first-served basis. These reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card. Contact Ginger via email at [dgbruggs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dgbruggs@sbcglobal.net) or by phone at 513-594-1438 no later than June 1st.

Propane refueling and scheduled meals are located at Smith Park (500 Tytus Ave., Middletown, Ohio) adjacent to Hook Field-Middletown Regional Airport - the primary launch field.

**Volunteer Crew**

We make every effort to provide local crew should you need them. 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.

**Maps**

Once finalized, a digital version (JPG file) of the competition map will be posted to The Ohio Challenge website and available for downloading. Visit [www.ohiochallenge.com](http://www.ohiochallenge.com)

**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. Pilots are required to return signed forms before being permitted to refuel. You may turn in a single form containing the signatures of all your crew at the Friday general briefing. Additional crew not included on the master form must sign the necessary form and those forms will be submitted at subsequent briefings.

## **Scheduled Flight Activities**

### **Media Flight**

A Media Flight *may* be scheduled for Thursday evening (July 20- or Friday morning (July 21). A limited number of spaces may be available. Priority will be given to special shape and commercial balloons. Participants will receive complimentary propane and are expected to fly local media representatives and VIP guests.

### **Sponsor Flight**

Friday evening's flight is a fun flight with the sponsor. The Ohio Challenge sponsors provide an outstanding venue, accommodations, prize funds, and other 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 ride must be taken on Friday evening. Self-sponsored corporate pilots are not required to carry Ohio Challenge sponsors. All pilots will be matched up with their sponsor during the Friday pilot briefing at the VIP/Sponsor Pilot tent at Smith Park. 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.

### **Night Glow**

The Night Glow is planned for 9:15 p.m. Friday & Saturday evening. Please indicate on the Pilot Entry Form your preference of Friday or Saturday. Priority for Glow participation will be given to corporate balloons. Sport balloons will be paid a \$50 stipend. This is an extremely well attended and photographed event and one that corporate entrants will not want to miss.

### **Tentative Schedule**

A preliminary weekend schedule of events is published and is emailed as part of this application