

School Program Guidelines

School Guidelines

Thank you for expressing your desire to participate in BelleStar's - Balloons to Schools program.

These guidelines have been prepared to communicate the program's scope and the responsibilities expected of the school and the participating pilots.

1. The typical appearance of a hot air balloon at a school may include a presentation by the pilot in an indoor group setting and then taking the students outdoors to see an inflated hot air balloon. There are three levels of presentations available.
 - a. **Assembly** - This presentation provides an assembly-type presentation using a multimedia and lecture format. The presentation is about 45 minutes in length and includes a presentation by the pilot and ground crew on:
 - i. the history of ballooning,
 - ii. the parts of a hot air balloon,
 - iii. what makes a hot air balloon fly,
 - iv. types of hot air balloons,
 - v. as well as a video covering the launch, flight, and landing aspects of a typical flight, and
 - vi. time for Q&A by the students, faculty, and staff.
 - b. **Basic** - The Basic program provides the school with an on-site visit and inflation of a hot air balloon at a mutually agreeable location on the school playground or nearby facility. This program is suitable when there are other activities planned by the school where having a hot air balloon on site will generate additional emphasis and excitement for the students. Weather permitting we can tether the balloon at the school to lift teachers, staff, and administrators to heights of approximately 60 to 80 feet in the air.
 - c. **Enhanced** - The enhanced program combines the Assembly Program and the Basic Program into a single presentation. This is the most popular presentation we provide. Additional presentations can be made to upper-level elementary schools and middle schools that will add emphasis to the science and math courses.
2. **If the conditions allow:**
 - a. If the Basic or Enhanced option is selected we inflate one of our hot air balloons in a static display for the students to approach and get a hands-on experience.
 - b. If the wind limits are safe, teachers, principals, PTA leaders, and other adults (within certain weight limits) may be allowed to "fly" in a balloon tethered to the ground. The participating adults will be asked to sign a liability waiver before participating.
3. **If the weather conditions do not allow** for the inflation of a balloon the pilot will do an alternative presentation involving the basket, burners, and other equipment needed for flight.
4. **Under no circumstances will student rides be permitted.**
5. The **typical optimum time for the presentation is the first thing in the school day.** Presentations based on the expectations that a hot air balloon can be inflated later than 9:30 am can be problematic. Please consult with us for details.
6. The school must confirm that they can provide the following:
 - a. **School and school district administration must provide all written permission and approvals** necessary to inflate a hot air balloon on the school's premises.

- b. The school **MUST** have an **area of at least 125 ft by 125 ft** of grass and clear of obstructions. We will need to drive **multiple vehicles on the surface to use as anchor points**.
 - c. The school must be prepared to have **four strong adults** to assist with the inflation, deflation, ropes, and tether lines, as well as staff to supervise all students in the proximity of the hot air balloon.
 - d. The school should be prepared to **provide two full-sized SUV's or trucks with trailer hitches** to act as anchor points for the tether lines.
 - e. The school should have visual equipment to **support the use of PowerPoint and video presentations**. The pilots will bring the presentation to the school on either a USB thumb drive or on a CD.
 - f. It is advisable to provide a **courtesy notice to the local police and fire department** that a hot air balloon will be at the school. It will allow them to manage their calls and it may be interesting for them.
7. The pilots will contact the school approximately one week before the scheduled presentation to confirm the facilities.

If you have any questions please contact Kent Barnes at (801) 557-5300 or KJBarnes@gmail.com

Thanks again for your participation.

