



811 Hot Air Balloon Frequently Asked Questions (as of March 7, 2017)

Q1: How can I tell if the 811 Hot Air Balloon (simply “balloon” on all future references) is coming to my area?

A1: Information about the planned tour can be found on the CGA website [here](#).

Q2: How can I request the balloon for an event in my area?

A2: CGA has established a request page [here](#). CGA staff will inform members when events have been approved for the official balloon tour schedule.

Q3: How much space does the balloon require? What other resources – human and otherwise – are needed to host the balloon?

A3: A space 250 feet wide by 250 feet long by 250 feet high is required. The space size can be flexible as long as it is free of any poles, structures or fences. You should also be prepared to have at least four (4) volunteers to assist the balloon crew with inflation and event management. One additional vehicle weighing at least 3,000 pounds is ideal for tethering the balloon.

Q4: What are the dimensions of the balloon?

A4: 73 feet tall and 60 feet in diameter.

Q5: How much does the balloon weigh?

A5: 400 lbs.

Q6: Is there a cost for CGA members to host the balloon at an event?

A6: There is no cost, but the event must be approved by CGA. Please refer to A2 for details on requesting the balloon at an event.

Q7: How long does it take to inflate and deflate the balloon?

A7: It will take between 90 minutes and three hours to inflate and to deflate, depending on weather and number of CGA member volunteers on hand.

Q8: How many people can fit in the balloon?

A8: The balloon can accommodate the professional pilot, plus 2 or 3 riders that weigh no more than 400 combined lbs. Children 14 years and older may ride, but only if they are accompanied by an adult. There must be one adult for each child who boards the balloon. Riders with any health conditions, including pregnancy, may be advised not to ride in the balloon.

Q9: How will the rides work?

A9: The balloon pilot recommends offering tethered rides departing from the designated space described in A3. These rides would ascend until the basket is 50 feet above the ground, hover for about 15 minutes and then return to the ground.

Q10: Does the balloon come with an insurance policy? Do members need to add supplemental insurance above and beyond what is carried by the balloon team?

A10: The balloon team will carry an insurance policy to cover the liability of operating balloon, including coverage for catastrophic property damage. [Click here](#) to view Cox Utility Services' insurance policy covering the balloon. [Click here](#) to view CGA's additional insurance coverage.

Q11: Will all balloon riders have to sign a waiver before boarding? Is there a safety briefing provided by the pilot like what someone hears before flying on a commercial flight or boat ride?

A11: Yes, all riders will have to sign a waiver provided by the balloon pilot prior to boarding. Yes, the pilot will provide a briefing about safety procedures and protocols prior to balloon take-off.

Q12: What sort of weather conditions would cause a balloon event to be postponed or cancelled? How and when would I be informed if this happens?

A12: Any storms or winds that exceed 8 miles per hour will necessitate the cancellation of the balloon appearance. You will be notified by phone and email approximately 4-6 hours ahead of your scheduled event.

Q13: Can I request the balloon for an event outside for an event after August 11th?

A13: At this time, the 811 balloon has no plans for additional appearances after August 11th.

Q14: Should CGA members who are hosting the balloon secure any local permits?

A14: You should check with the local jurisdiction in which you'd like the balloon to appear to see if permits are required. Permits require time for approval, so check with potential host jurisdictions sooner rather than later about permit requirements.

Q15: Can I promote my company or association name on the 811 balloon?

A15: Yes, a template on specs and ordering instructions has been made available for CGA members to customize banners to be hung from the balloon.