

## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST/CAN I OFFER A RIDE AS A PRICE OR INCENTIVE AT AN EVENT?

There is no charge for a CGA member in good-standing to ride in the 811 balloon. A CGA member can offer a ride as an incentive or prize contingent that local sweepstakes laws and rules are followed. Prize rides are subject to all parameters outlined below such as conducive weather and height, weight and age requirements.

## WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THE PRE-FLIGHT ROUTINE?

Once you arrive at the designated launch site, you will receive instructions from the pilot and or crew chief. Riders will be required to sign a liability waiver and may help with the balloon set-up. Riders are encouraged to bring cameras/camera phones to capture their flight.

## HOW LONG IS THE BALLOON RIDE?

The actual ride is between 30 minutes- 1 hour. However, the whole experience will take about 2-3 hours. You will have a chance to meet your pilot and crew before the flight; you might even be asked to help inflate the balloon. During the flight, your balloon will be followed by its "chase vehicle" that stays in radio contact with your pilot. On landing, you will have the opportunity to participate in the age-old tradition of sharing a bottle of champagne with passengers. You might be asked to help roll up the "envelope" (the actual balloon) and store it in the basket. The chase vehicle then transports you back to the starting point.

## CAN MY ELDERLY PARENTS/YOUNG CHILDREN FLY?

**Parents:** If they are in good health, have strong legs and can climb in and stand in the basket, they are able to fly.

**Children:** A child cannot be held and has to be old enough to stand in the basket and see over the basket edge. Typically, children need to be over 45 inches tall. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Ultimately, the PILOT makes the decision to accept or decline a passenger based on everyone's safety.

## CAN I FLY IF I AM PREGNANT?

If you are pregnant or think you could be pregnant you will not be allowed to fly in the balloon.

## HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHETHER THE BALLOONS WILL FLY OR NOT?

The decision to fly or not depends on wind speed and wind direction. Typically we like to fly in winds less than 10 mph. The Pilot has the final say. If weather conditions are questionable, he/she will make that decision 15 – 30 minutes prior to the scheduled flight time. Sometimes a flight time is delayed due to weather.

## WHAT SHOULD I WEAR FOR MY BALLOON RIDE?

Wear comfortable closed toed shoes, such as sneakers or boots. Long pants are also recommended as you never know where the wind will take you and you could land in tall grass/brush. Generally you will not notice much of a change in temperature during your flights so dress according to the days weather forecast.

## HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN FIT IN A BALLOON?

Our pilot can take 1 -2 persons for a ride. This varies based on passenger's weight and the size of the envelope and the basket.

## WHERE WILL IT FLY?

The pilot and crew chief will scope out a flight plan based on previous flights in the area, wind direction/speed, time of day and red zones (areas where you are forbidden to land).

## WHEN WILL WE FLY?

Balloons fly at times when the air is the most stable and predictable (mornings and evenings). For morning flights we typically meet about 1 hour prior to sunrise and are off the ground within a few minutes of sunrise. Afternoon flights will take place about 2 hours before sunset and again will meet an hour prior to ensure everyone is briefed and prepared.