



Gentle Breeze
Hot Air Balloon Co., Ltd
2460 Greentree Rd Lebanon, OH 45036
Flying since 1981 ~ Established 1988

PRE-FLIGHT BRIEFING

~Sign & return this page on the day of your flight~

Please review prior to the day of your flight, keeping in mind ballooning should not be compared to an airport gate & boarding an airplane. This is a physical activity; please take all briefings serious for your safety. For light crew duties occasionally you maybe asked to participate for hands on experience. This is at your discretion and ability.

Clothing: Closed toed shoes are **required** to protect your feet. Shoes with support are suggested due to the short walks. **NO** sandals or high heels. Long pants / leg coverings are highly suggested to protect your legs. Dress for the ground temperature during your flight time. Cooler or colder temperatures may require dressing in layers, gloves & a hat. Shoulder or head covering is suggested to shield warmth coming from the burners. Stay hydrated with water.

PRE-FLIGHT:

- All passengers will obtain a verbal safety briefing prior to flight.
- During rigging and layout of the equipment, your pilot may request assistance with small tasks.
- For inflation, the basket is laid on its side; **STAY CLEAR OF THE INFLATOR FAN (S)**. The fan may inadvertently pick-up loose debris & loose clothing.
- Be cautious & stay clear of the safety line connecting the basket to the chase vehicle. (This safety precaution is removed just prior to lift off.)
- Once in the designated grass launch area; stay there or in the parking area. **Do not walk or stand on the any of the paved taxiways or runway.** Stay clear & do not touch any of the airplanes, aircraft, airport lighting or enter in any open hangar.

INFLATION: There are two steps to inflate a balloon:

1. 'Cold' inflation – The basket is laying on its side & fan(s) blow air into the balloon.
 - Two people hold the 'mouth' of the balloon open. You may be asked or volunteer if you like. Your crew/pilot will outline easy steps to follow.
 2. 'Hot' inflation – The pilot lights the burners, heating the air inside the balloon & the balloon rises. The fan(s) & burner produce loud noises.
 - **BREEZY** inflations: commonly the pilot 'pre-boards' a few passengers with instructions. Pre-boarding requires passengers to enter the basket during the cold inflation period, while the basket remains on its side. Pre-boarding expedites departure & assists the pilot to stabilize the basket during hot inflation.
 - When the balloon is inflated in an upright position, (if you are not already in the basket) the pilot asks you to climb in using the foot holes in the sides of the basket. Once in the basket the pilot may direct you where to stand in order to ensure their full visibility during launch.
 - Commonly the basket may slightly rock back & forth & not stay completely flat on the ground. If basket movement occurs, hold onto the handles or the upper structure. Keep your knees flexible to absorb the movement. Do not strap anything around your neck. The pilot will continue heating the air inside the balloon until it reaches the proper temperature for lift.
 - It is normal to experience A LOT of radiant heat from the burners. You may want to bring a head covering. In this situation, it **WILL BE** loud & hot.
 - **Please be ready to board & stay close to the basket when hot inflation begins.**
- Flight time is determined by fuel consumption & begins when fuel flow starts. (Hot inflation)

**NO OPEN TOED SHOES, SANDALS OR HIGH HEELS.
CLOSED TOED SHOES REQUIRED FOR FLIGHT.**

FLYING:

- Give yourself a few minutes to acclimate to the feel of balloon & basket.
- It is common to feel movement of the basket when you move about in smaller baskets.
- Keep in mind - 'cozy'. All forms of aviation are designed not allowing extra room; this is for your safety. During a high wind landing, there could be a greater risk of injury if there is more room to move about.
- Flying a few hundred feet above the ground, be watchful for hazards, power lines/poles, towers etc. In addition, flying in 'traffic' (any other balloons in the immediate area) the higher balloon gives way to the lower balloon. Feel free to inform your pilot any hazards not already identified.
- Passing through the tops of trees is not only a unique way of picking leaves, but also occasionally used as a method to slow the balloon just prior to landing. Pay attention, hold on inside the basket & don't grab branches that may snap back & hit your face.
- Non-compartment baskets; DO NOT grab, pull or hold on to any of the fuel hoses, fittings, valves, red &/or multi colored ropes hanging down from inside the balloon. The ropes will open vents & deflation ports.

LANDING: (Yes landing is mandatory after taking off)

You will be informed of the pilot's intentions regarding the type & approximate location of landing prior to touch down. The landing could be feather soft to feeling like you just stepped of a step or jumping from a slow moving vehicle going about 8-10+ mph.

- **STANDARD 'Stand-up' LANDINGS:**
 - ✓ You may face forward unless directed by your pilot. (See high-wind)
 - ✓ Hold on to the handles. Keeping your body, knees & legs flexible, do not stiffen up. Keep arms and body inside the basket.
 - ✓ Remove straps & camera equipment from around your neck & stow.
 - ✓ The basket may contact (bounce) the ground more than one time before it comes to a final stop. Do to the forward momentum & bounces; prepare yourself to catch your body from lunging.
 - ✓ DO NOT EXIT THE BASKET UNTIL DIRECTED BY THE PILOT.
- **HIGH-WIND LANDINGS:** For windier landings, commonly the basket will "tip" over and drag across the ground for a short distance. High wind landings occur when the winds do not decrease according to forecast or increase during flight. Our practice is not intentionally launching with passengers knowing it will be a rough landing.
 - ✓ Face backwards to the direction of travel. Commonly known as 'Astronaut position'.
 - ✓ Flex your knees & keep the majority of your body mass below the top edge of the basket. If the basket "tips" over on its side, you will be lying on your back & looking up at the sky.
 - ✓ If not in a partition basket, position yourself towards the back of the basket. The pilot needs to be towards the front to have a clear view.
 - ✓ DO NOT EXIT THE BASKET UNLESS TOLD BY YOUR PILOT.

For ALL landings, do NOT display any unnecessary distress, loud yelling or flailing of arms. This could give bystanders the wrong impression resulting in unnecessary emergency calls.

We ask all passengers to acknowledge they have read & understood the pre-flight briefing by signing below. Submit this form along with your waiver of release form the day of your flight.

PASSENGER SIGNATURE

DATE

WEIGHT (required)

Certificate or voucher number(s) _____