

# 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~

Below outlines some of what to expect for your ballooning excursion. 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 briefing serious for your safety.

#### **PRE-FLIGHT:**

- All passengers will obtain a verbal safety briefing prior to flight.
- During rigging and layout of the equipment, you may be requested to assist with small tasks. Please ask if you are not clear or have questions.
- For inflation, the basket is laid on its side; STAY CLEAR OF THE INFLATOR FAN(S). These fan(s) 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 during inflation removed during 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, other aircraft or airport lighting.

#### **INFLATION:** There are two steps to inflate a balloon:

- 1. 'Cold' inflation basket on its side & fan(s) blow air into the balloon.
- 2. 'Hot' inflation pilot lights the burners, heating the air inside the balloon & the balloon rises. The fan(s) & burner produce loud noises.
- Two people hold the 'mouth' of the balloon open for 'cold' inflation. You may be asked or volunteer if you like. Your crew/pilot will outline easy steps to follow.
- *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.
- Commonly the basket may 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 bounces. Do not strap anything around your neck. The pilot will continue heating the balloon until the balloon 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.
- When the balloon is inflated in a 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. Once airborne, you may reposition yourself.
- Flight time determined by fuel consumption begins when fuel flow starts. (Hot inflation) \*\*Please be ready to board by standing close to the basket when you hear the noise from the burners.\*\*

NO OPEN TOED SHOES, SANDELS 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 when you move about in the smaller baskets.
- Stand anywhere in the basket, keeping in mind 'cozy'. All forms of aviation are designed not allowing extra room for your safety. More room to move area in could result in a greater risk of injury on bouncing / high wind landings.
- Flying a few hundred feet above the ground be watchful for hazards, power lines/poles, towers etc. In addition, flying in 'traffic' 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 a standard 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.
- Smaller basket; DO NOT grab, pull or hold on to any of the fuel hoses, fittings, valves, red &/or multi colored ropes coming 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 LANDINGS:

- ✓ You may face forward unless directed by your pilot. (See high-wind)
- ✓ Hold on to the handles. Keep your body, knees & legs flexible, do not stiffen up. Keep all body parts inside the basket.
- ✓ Remove straps & camera equipment from around your neck & stow.
- ✓ The basket may touch 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, you will already be lying on your back.
  - ✓ 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 by standers 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)		