

ALBUQUERQUE INTERNATIONAL  
**BALLOON FIESTA**  
*The World's Premier Balloon Event*

*Presented by*

**Canon**

**Greetings Pilots:**

The 48<sup>th</sup> Balloon Fiesta will be here before we know it and this letter serves as notice that it's time to pre-register for the 2019 event. We are excited that Canon will be back as our presenting sponsor and the theme for Balloon Fiesta this year is "Picture Perfect". We hope that you will be part of the largest balloon event in world, so get your application in early before we fill.

Pilot pre-registration/application will open on March 4, 2019 at 8am MST. As Balloon Fiesta strives to keep up with technology, we have changed the application platform. What does this mean to you? You will need to start the application by entering all of your important documents such as license front & back, flight review, balloon annual, etc. We do not have any imported documents from the old site host. Please take your time and submit your documents that are valid for this year's event. We understand that you may need a flight review or a balloon annual inspection prior to the event, however you can update those documents at the time of on-site registration or you can upload the updated documents prior to September 1.

The first section of the application will ask you to setup a username and password. Your username will be your e-mail address. You will need both, the username and password to return to your application if you selected save, as well as to upload documents, etc. later.

When completing your application you will be asked to provide us with a high quality digital photograph of your balloon with a preferred image resolution of 1,200 x 1,600 or larger. Balloon Fiesta will once again supply balloon cards to each primary pilot, but we will need these photos of your balloon no later than April 30, 2019. If your photos are not received by this deadline your balloon will not be included in the program and you will not receive balloon cards.

**After receiving your comments regarding Balloon Fiesta Hotels in the post-event pilot survey we have made some changes to the hotel 'Pilot Room' and 'Premium Pilot Room' lists. We hope that you like the changes we have made.**

Primary pilots residing more than 50 miles from Albuquerque are eligible for hotel accommodations or an RV site with electricity for up to 9 nights (in October 4 – out October 13). Once your event registration is approved by AIBF, primary pilots will receive an approval email and a list of 'Pilot Rooms' & 'Premium Pilot Rooms' to review. An email will be sent to all approved primary pilots eligible for hotel accommodations on Wednesday May 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am MDT containing a link to access and complete the hotel reservation. If you choose any room on

4401 Alameda Blvd. NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87113  
505-821-1000

ALBUQUERQUE INTERNATIONAL  
**BALLOON FIESTA**  
*The World's Premier Balloon Event*

*Presented by*

**Canon**

the 'Premium Pilot Room list' you are responsible for the additional nightly upgrade charges listed. You are responsible for all incidental charges incurred during your stay upon checkout. All hotel reservations made from the 'Pilot Rooms/Premium Pilot Room' list must be made through HBC Event Services and all RV site reservations must be made through the AIBF RV Coordinator. If you choose to stay at a hotel that has not been approved by Balloon Fiesta in advance, Balloon Fiesta will not pay for any portion of your room charges.

**Alternate Housing Program:**

Balloon Fiesta will provide \$1,000 each to the first 25 eligible pilots who choose to secure their own housing/accommodations for Balloon Fiesta and not use HBC to secure their hotel room or the RV Coordinator for an RV site. The first 25 pilots to indicate they want to receive this 'Alternate Housing Program' money will be identified by the time stamp of their pilot application submission. If there are, more than 25 pilots who want to participate in the program a wait list will be created. Balloon Fiesta will provide the program money at pilot registration. Participants will be required to complete a W-9 form and a signed acknowledgement that Balloon Fiesta is not responsible for their accommodations.

This year we will accept 580 primary pilot applications, but we do not maintain a waiting list for cancellations. We will limit the number of competitive balloons to 300. No balloon larger than 105,900 cubic feet or 2,998 cubic meters nor pilots contracted to the official ride concessionaire are eligible to compete in AIBF competitive events. Pilots launching from Balloon Fiesta Park on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and/or Friday are not eligible for overall competition. Non-competition pilots with allowable balloon size are eligible to compete in Thursday/Friday Ring-Toss as long as they launch one statute mile from the center of Balloon Fiesta Park. Wednesday's Flight of the Nations Mass Ascension competition does not count towards overall standings, but daily group money prizes will be available to those signed up for competition. Thursday/Friday Special Shape Rodeo competition has been eliminated due to the event becoming more display oriented. To eliminate last minute confusion, we will not allow competitive/non-competitive changes to be made after August 1, 2019.

On-site registration will be held at the Sid Cutter Pilots' Pavilion in the Balloon Fiesta Park. Please note the schedule for registration and make sure to plan your arrival to Albuquerque accordingly. Registration will take place on Thursday October 3, 2019 and Friday October 4, 2019 from 10:00 am (1000 hours) to 7:00 pm (1900 hours).

**The General Briefing/Safety Video will be available for review online beginning Saturday, September 7, and will close at the end of the day on Sunday, September 22. Pilots who log into their application status to view the video online and successfully complete a test on the materials covered will not be required to view the video at Registration. The General Briefing/Safety Video will be shown every half hour starting at 10:30 am (1030 hours) through**

4401 Alameda Blvd. NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87113  
505-821-1000

ALBUQUERQUE INTERNATIONAL  
**BALLOON FIESTA**<sup>®</sup>  
*The World's Premier Balloon Event*  
*Presented by*

**Canon**

**6:30 pm (1830 hours), during Registration on Thursday October 3, 2019 and Friday October 4, 2019.**

All registered pilots will receive pilot memo emails from us prior to Balloon Fiesta. These emails will include information on rules, waivers, safety tips, scheduled events, and anything else that may help make your visit as enjoyable as possible. You can also get updates on the Balloon Fiesta web site at [www.balloonfiesta.com](http://www.balloonfiesta.com) or at AIBF Pilots on Facebook.

Balloon Fiesta pilots and crew alike are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that properly represents Albuquerque, the State of New Mexico and promotes the sport of ballooning. Proper consideration should be given to fellow Balloon Fiesta participants, event officials, sponsors, guests and landowners.

From all of us at AIBF, we look forward to seeing Y'all in October.

Balloon Fiesta Staff