



2024 Guest Guide

Decade of Dreams

Old West Balloon Fest
10th Anniversary

August 7-10 2024

Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska



TO PURCHASE Event Passes:

Event passes are \$20 per carload, and are good for the entire weekend. They may be purchased three different ways:

Passes can be purchased by visiting our website, select sponsor locations or at the gate.

Please hang the physical pass from the rearview mirror of your vehicle so that the parking pass can be seen by our staff.

Event Passes are good for ALL events during the Old West Balloon Fest , August 7-10, 2024. Enjoy viewing hot air balloons, (weather permitting) live music, Night Glows, kids zone, drone show, kite shows, and so much more! Incredible, entertainment value.

THE PREMIER HOT AIR BALLOONING EVENT IN WESTERN NEBRASKA

We invite you to join us for the 10th anniversary of the Old West Balloon Fest. A family fun weekend for everyone from the ages of 1 to 100. Celebrating a Decade of flying, fun, and DREAMS. Many remember the event from the 1980's and 1990's and dreamt of the event coming back to the area. The event was "re-inflated" in 2015 to the delight of the community. Our 10th anniversary will be a spectacular show of the greatest magnitude. Hot air balloons will fill the sky each morning for mass ascensions. Days filled with activities and balloon glows to light up the evening sky. Our grand finale will be a night glow and concert. You won't want to miss the drone show with over 200 drones depicting iconic scenes from the Western Nebraska area we love. There is an abundance of entertainment included in your low admission price of \$20 per carload. The pass is good for the entire weekend of events, the best bargain in the valley.



OVERVIEW OF SCHEDULED EVENTS:

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2024— Western Nebraska Community College **NIGHT GLOW** Sponsored by WNCC, gates open at 5:30 PM. Hot Air Balloons light up the night sky for one of the most anticipated nights at Old West Balloon Fest. Food and merchandise vendors provide unique food experiences and hot air balloon related merchandise will be available for purchase. Get up close and personal to speak with hot air and RC balloon pilots. Make sure to ask them for a collectible hot air balloon trading card.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 2024— Platte Valley Companies presents the morning mass ascension at Mitchell Airfield. Gates open at 5:30 AM. Witness the spectacular view as hot air balloons inflate and take flight at sunrise. **NEW THIS YEAR**, all activities will take place in Mitchell on the launch field. Look for the official merchandise tent, Kids Discovery Zone tent, food and merchandise vendors (to see a complete list of vendors serving breakfast go to our vendor page). Once the balloons have taken off, enjoy the Kids Discovery Zone to learn about everything hot air ballooning. RC balloon flight demonstration. Plan to spend the morning taking part in all of the exciting activities!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2024 — **PLATTE VALLEY COMPANIES** presents the morning mass ascension at Mitchell Airfield. Gates open at 5:30 AM. Witness the spectacular view as hot air balloons inflate and take flight at sunrise. **NEW THIS YEAR**, all activities will take place in Mitchell on the launch field. Look for the official merchandise tent, Kids Discovery Zone tent, food and merchandise vendors (to see a complete list of vendors serving breakfast go to our vendor page). Redz Bar and Grill will be serving Mimosas and Bloody Marys' in our beer garden. RC Balloon Demonstration will take place after the mass ascension.



SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2024— CRAFT FAIR AND WIENER DOG RACES

After the morning events at Mitchell Airfield, join us in DOWNTOWN Mitchell on Center Street for the Old West Balloon Fest Craft Fair from 7:30 AM to 2:30 PM. Over 100 local vendors display their homemade crafts and exquisite one of a kind wares. Enjoy the fourth annual Weiner Dog Races at Kiwanis Park at the end of Center street at 11:00 am. Little doggies race in age categories to claim the prize of top dog in this hilarious venture of controlled chaos.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2024 — CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT

REDZ BAR AND GRILL hosts the fourth annual Old West Balloon Fest Corn Hole Tournament during the craft fair. Center Street will be blocked off to host this one of a kind tournament. Watch as over 35 competitive teams vie for the bragging rights and top money prizes in the Old West Balloon Fest Corn Hole Tournament.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2024— OLD WEST BALLOON FEST NIGHT GLOW AND DRONE SHOW. Gates open at 5:30 PM. RURAL RADIO presents the night glow at sunset and SKYWORX drone show at MITCHELL AIRFIELD at 9:00 PM. Celebrate the conclusion of the weekend's events as Hot Air Balloons and RC Balloons glow in the warm Nebraska summer evening (weather permitting). You will not want to miss the one of a kind drone show presented by SKYWORX with 200 drones creating a light show of epic proportion. The evening's activities include live music, beer garden, food and merchandise vendors. Don't forget to visit the Official Merchandise tent and the Kids Discovery Zone tent. It is an evening you will not want to miss.



GUEST INFORMATION

GENERAL INFORMATION— Please refer to our map to guide you to WNCC. Mitchell Airfield is located at 60452 South Mitchell Road, Mitchell, NE. Hours Parking/Gates open at 5:30 PM for the WNCC night glow. Parking/Gates open at Mitchell Airfield at 5:30 AM for the morning mass ascensions and 5:30 PM for the night glow/drone show. You must have an event pass to attend the WNCC glow (parking at the college) and both mass ascensions and night glow. You WILL NOT be permitted to park on Mitchell South Road to view any of the events as it is a HAZARD. Scotts Bluff County Sheriff's office will be there to direct traffic. Please try to purchase your event pass in advance and display it on your rear-view mirror for our staff to see it easily. Event passes will be for sale at the gate. EVERY vehicle must display an event pass in your vehicle to enter the venue. All activities for Old West Balloon Fest are weather permitting. Admission to the event does not guarantee a balloon launch, tickets are non-refundable. Schedule of events varies daily and are weather dependent. All Old West Balloon Fest events depend on prevailing weather conditions and are subject to delays or cancellations. Surface winds and winds aloft can vary greatly; maximum safe surface wind speeds are 8-10 mph. Although every effort is made for a successful balloon flight/glow, the safety of our pilots, volunteers, and spectators is our first priority. If extreme weather conditions exist, notices will be posted via social media and our website. In ballooning, last-minute decisions are the norm because the weather can quickly change and be indecisive. Old West Balloon Fest is an outdoor event: no refunds, rain checks, or exchanges. If hot air balloons are unable to fly or glow due to wind conditions, live music, drone show and other scheduled entertainment will take place (weather permitting). The safety of our guests, volunteers, pilots, and staff are of the utmost importance. The Old West Balloon Fest is a 501c3 non-profit organization whose mission is to bring a family fun community event to Western Nebraska. By purchasing an event pass, you support our local economy, our community, tourism, and the sport of hot air ballooning.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW EARLY SHOULD I ARRIVE AT THE BALLOON FIELD? Please plan to arrive when the gates open for each event. No early admission will be allowed. Scotts Bluff County Sheriff's office, City of Scottsbluff Police Department and Mitchell Police Department will be there to direct traffic. Please plan on purchasing your event pass BEFORE you arrive to the event and display it on your rearview mirror for quick entry to all of the venues.

HOW WILL I KNOW IF THE BALLOONS WILL FLY/GLOW? Please monitor our Facebook page and website for weather cancellations/delays. Rural Radio stations will announce any cancellations or delays. KNEB FM radio station located 94.1 will have a live remote at the event to announce updates as well. If changes to the schedule are necessary, they will be announced over the PA system (at the balloon field) and on social media. Please plan on arriving to view the event when the gates open. A "wait and see" approach may result in arriving too late and missing the balloons in all their glory.

WHAT ITEMS ARE NOT ALLOWED AT THE EVENT? No weapons, No drones, laser pointers, fireworks, lighters or flames of any kind. No animals with the exception of a service animal. No tents or large umbrellas that obstruct views. ALL bags are subject to inspection. No outside food/drink or coolers. **SMOKING OR VAPING IS ABSOULETLY FORBIDDEN ON THE BALLOON FIELD** due to the open flames balloons use to inflate and fly using propane. Designated smoking/vaping area will be provided.

ARE PETS ALLOWED AT THE BALLOON FIELD? The only animals allowed are ADA service animals that are specially trained for a specific job or task. Emotional support animals are not classified as service animals. You must understand that your pets needs and the need to keep our balloon field clear of excrement is the upmost importance. Balloonists must lay down their balloons in the grass to inflate them. How unfortunate if the expensive fabric of their beautiful ballon was ruined by animal excrement. Not to mention others stepping in it, oops! Please do not leave your pets in a locked car, temperatures can reach over 130 degrees in only 10 minutes.



WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT WHEN I GET TO THE EVENT? When you arrive for the evening glows it will be warm. Sunscreen and bug spray are a good idea to bring with you. Food and merchandise vendors will be ready for a great evening meal. Please bring a blanket or folding chair as seating is not provided.

When arriving for the morning launches in Mitchell it might be cool, dress in layers. Be sure to pack your sunscreen and bug spray. Bring a folding chair or blanket as seating is not provided. Our hospitality tent can be used for your convenience for eating and drinking. We encourage you to go out onto the balloon field and watch the balloons inflate and take off.

CAN I TALK TO THE BALLOON PILOTS? The balloon pilots are very happy to explain the process of inflating and flying their balloons. The pilots have been provided with balloon trading cards and love giving them out to our guests, just ask politely and they will give you one. Please stay clear of the inflator fans and the flames as the balloons are preparing for takeoff.

CAN I TAKE PICTURES OF THE BALLOONS? Hot air balloons are magical and one of the most photographed objects and we encourage you to capture as many exciting photos as possible. Photos taken for commercial purposes are not allowed. If you would like to take photos for commercial purposes, please purchase a vendor pass. Media passes will be given to official media personnel upon request and approval. Photos taken by the media may be used for their promotional purposes or advertising. By entering the property you understand that your photo might be used without compensation or permission.

WHAT IS THERE TO DO DURING THE DAY? Hot air balloons do not fly during the day due to the heat. This is the perfect time to visit the many attractions in our community. Visit Scotts Bluff National Monument or hike the many trails around Wild Cat Hills. Explore Legacy of the Plains museum, Riverside Discovery Center, or attend one of our local theaters. Experience our unique local dining scene, shopping, or visit one of our local breweries and wineries. Scotts Bluff County has so much to offer. For more information go to www.visitscottsbluff.com

