

New Jersey Lottery Festival of Ballooning returns to Solberg Airport

Colorful balloons filling the sky. Concerts. Amusement rides. Fireworks. Food.

All in one place, and all outdoors, at the 38th annual New Jersey Lottery Festival of Ballooning, the largest summertime hot air balloon and music festival in North America.

The festival relaunches July 23, 24 and 25, at Hunterdon County's Solberg Airport in Readington, N.J.

Featuring the spectacle of up to 100 sport and special shaped hot air balloons taking flight twice each day and a popular live concert series, the festival has been named the premiere family entertainment attraction in New Jersey by the USA Today Network.

The hot air balloon inflations and ascensions – what the festival calls the ‘magic of ballooning – take place and fill the sky in the early morning and early evening.

In between, the festival offers hours and hours of affordable family entertainment including a live concert series; a fireworks display; a nighttime hot air balloon glow where the balloons are inflated and lit up like giant lanterns; children's amusement rides and age-appropriate entertainment; human cannonball David ‘The Bullet’ Smith; the Running with the Balloons 5K race; experiential attractions, samples and exhibits from leading consumer brands; and hundreds of crafters and food vendors.

This year's concert lineup features best-selling children's recording artists



Friendly balloons are part of the ascension at the New Jersey Lottery Festival of Ballooning.

Laurie Berkner on Friday, Barenaked Ladies on Saturday, and Styx on Sunday. Lawn seating for the concerts is included in general admission tickets. The festival also offers VIP reserved concert seating.

“We're excited that people want to be outdoors, enjoying themselves and safely spending time with their friends and families. The size and openness of Solberg Airport allows us to have a safe environment to hold the festival and produce the lifelong memories people have come to enjoy,” said New Jersey Lottery Festival of Ballooning Executive Producer Howard Freeman.

Freeman said the festival will follow whatever guidelines and protocols Gov. Phil Murphy, the CDC and local agencies have in place come July.

New special shaped balloons this year include the New Jersey Lottery

bright yellow sun balloon, a colorful unicorn, and a giant sloth. Returning favorite balloons include the 110-foot-tall Unique Photo panda bear, with more special shapes to be announced as the festival draws closer.

Since its inception in 1970, the New Jersey Lottery has contributed over \$28 billion to the state, helping to bolster the public employee pension system for teachers, police and fire personnel and other public employees, as well as supporting businesses and communities throughout New Jersey.

The festival also has raised more than \$3 million to date to benefit local charities, nonprofit organizations and children's specialized hospitals.

Advance tickets offering great savings are available now at balloonfestival.com.

