



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

Aviation Safety

North Texas Flight Standards District Office  
8700 Freeport Parkway Suite 225  
Irving, TX 75063  
(214) 277-8500 Fax: (214) 277-8570

May 15, 2023

Sam Parks  
Responsible Person  
2023 Great Texas Balloon Race/US Nationals  
P.O. Box 3988  
Longview, TX 75606-3988

Dear Mr. Parks:

This office has reviewed and approved your Application for Certificate of Waiver (FAA Form 7711-2) for the 2023 Great Texas Balloon Race/US Nationals, Longview, TX, dated June 12, 2023 through June 18, 2023.

This office has issued the Certificate of Waiver (FAA Form 7711-1) with special provisions.

If you have any question, please feel free to contact this office at (214) 277-8500 for further assistance.

Sincerely,

Dwayne B. Holt  
Principal Operations Inspector, NTX FSDO  
214-277-8529  
Dwayne.holt@faa.gov

ecc with enclosures: Sam Parks, Responsible Person, ([sparks@balloonfiesta.com](mailto:sparks@balloonfiesta.com))  
Certificate of Waiver (FAA Form 7711-1)  
Application for Certificate of Waiver (FAA Form 7711-2)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION  
**CERTIFICATE OF WAIVER**

ISSUED TO

**Sam Parks: Event Director  
2023 Great Texas Balloon Race/US Nationals**

ADDRESS

**P.O. Box 3988  
Longview, TX  
(505) 280-0637**

This certificate is issued for the operations specifically described hereinafter. No person shall conduct any operation pursuant to the authority of this certificate except in accordance with the standard and special provisions contained in this certificate, and such other requirements of the Federal Aviation Regulations not specifically waived by this certificate.

OPERATIONS AUTHORIZED

Lighter than air balloon event.

**AUTHORIZED AREA OF OPERATIONS:** Maude Cobb Convention and Activity Center, 100 Grand Blvd, Longview, Texas.  
Ten Nautical Miles (10) (NM) radius from Operations Headquarters at the Maude Cobb Convention and Activity Center from the surface up to 8,000 feet AGL.

LIST OF WAIVED REGULATIONS BY SECTION AND TITLE

**14 CFR Part 91.119(b) & 91.119(c)**

**STANDARD PROVISIONS**

1. A copy of the application made for this certificate shall be attached to and become a part hereof.
2. This certificate shall be presented for inspection upon the request of any authorized representative of the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, or of any State or municipal official charged with the duty of enforcing local laws or regulations.
3. The holder of this certificate shall be responsible for the strict observance of the terms and provisions contained herein.
4. This certificate is nontransferable.

**NOTE— This certificate constitutes a waiver of those Federal rules or regulations specifically referred to above. It does not constitute a waiver of any State law or local ordinance.**

**SPECIAL PROVISIONS**

Special Provisions Nos. **1** to **19**, inclusive, are set forth on the attached pages.

This certificate is effective, daily, June 12 to June 18, 2023, from 0600 to 1000 CDT inclusive each day, and is subject to cancellation at any time upon notice by the Administrator or his authorized representative.

**BY DIRECTION OF THE ADMINISTRATOR**

**Lewis C. Gonzales  
Manager, North Texas FSDO**

**May 15, 2023**

**SPECIAL PROVISIONS**  
*2023 Great Texas Balloon Race/US Nationals*

**This Certificate of Waiver constitutes a waiver of only those regulations stated, to the degree and for the period of time specified in the certificate. The Certificate of Waiver does not constitute a waiver of any state law or local ordinance. Should the proposed operation conflict with any state law, local ordinance, or required permission of local authorities or property owners, it shall be the applicant's responsibility to resolve the difficulty. The provisions of the waiver shall apply, regardless of the statements contained in the application for Certificate of Waiver. The waiver shall be considered void upon completion of the authorized schedule of events or at the latest time shown on the face of the Certificate of Waiver, whichever occurs earlier.**

**Regulations Waived:**

**The following regulations are waived as follows:**

**FAR 91.119(b) Minimum Altitude Over Congested Area:** Minimum safe altitude over congested area of a city, town, or settlement, or over any open air assembly of persons, an altitude of 1,000 feet above the highest obstacle within a horizontal radius of 2,000 feet of the aircraft.

**FAR 91.119(c) Minimum Altitude Other than Congested Area:** Minimum safe altitude over other than congested areas, except not closer than 500 feet to any person, vessel, vehicle, or structure on the surface.

**A. Common Special Provisions**

**Failure to comply with any standard of special provision is a violation of the terms of this Certificate of Waiver (CoW) and justification for cancellation of this Certificate and constitutes a violation of Title 49 of the United States Code Section(s) 44711(a)(2)(B) and/or 44711 (a)(5).**

1. The FAA has the authority to cancel or delay any or all acts or events if the safety of persons or property on the ground or in the air, are in jeopardy or there is a violation of the terms of the Certificate of Waiver (CoW).
2. The responsible person, **Mr. Sam Parks, Event Director**, named in Item 2 on FAA Form 7711-2 must ensure that participants are thoroughly briefed on special field rules and the established flying area (other defined areas within the waived/authorized airspace), manner and order of events, and special provisions of the CoW, before beginning the activities each day.
  - a. No person may participate in any event on the CoW unless that person has signed a statement stating that they have received a briefing on the provisions of the CoW.

ISSUED TO: Mr. Sam Parks, Great Texas Balloon Race/US Nationals  
DATE ISSUED: April 25, 2023  
VALID: Daily, June 12 to 18, 2023; 0600 to 1000 CDT  
ISSUED BY: North Texas Flight Standards District Office

- b. Only the team leader is required; however, a delegate may represent the team leader, provided the person is a pilot member of the team. The team leader must brief each member of the team and will provide the name of each person on the team he/she will brief before the performance.
3. **Mr. Sam Parks, Event Director**, will ensure that notification is made to the Leidos Flight Service Station (AFSS) 1-877-487-6867 of the date, time, place, demonstration areas, altitudes, nature of the activity, and duration of the operation and request that a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM D or TFR) be issued.
  - a. a. Such notice shall be accomplished by providing the controlling flight service station (FSS) with a copy of the CoW, at least 48 hours before the event and no more than 72 hours before the event.
  - b. b. A Class D NOTAM is issued for the entire aviation event. Class D NOTAM verification is required.
4. The responsible person **Mr. Sam Parks, Event Director**, will ensure that **Longview Air Traffic Control (TRACON)** at **(903) 643-4015** is notified each day prior to launch.
5. All civil aircraft and pilots participating in the aviation event shall provide the requested data to establish qualifications and airworthiness to the event organizer and if required be available for FAA inspection at the time and place agreed upon by **Mr. Sam Parks, Event Director**, and the FAA IIC.
6. Only the pilot and event flight crewmembers, as described in the Balloon Operations Manual, may be carried onboard any balloon operating under the waiver issued under this CoW.
7. A control point shall be established where the certificate holder or responsible person shall direct the demonstration. **Mr. Sam Parks, Event Director** shall be continuously available to the FAA IIC or designated representative and is the person designated as responsible for the overall safety of the event.
8. Adequate communication capability (electronic and visual) must be provided to maintain a safe operation, to control spectators, and to advise participants that the aerial demonstration has been halted or canceled.
9. A crowd line consisting of a physical barrier and/or adequate policing shall be provided to confine the spectators to designated areas. The spectator areas shall have well defined lateral boundaries.
10. The demonstration shall be halted for any reason that is in the interest of safety. It shall be halted when unauthorized aircraft enter the demonstration area, or when unauthorized persons or vehicles enter the area underlying the flying display area.
  - a. Only the minimum number of essential personnel necessary to support operations will be authorized in the flying display areas.

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- b. The holder of the CoW and Responsible Person, **Sam Parks**, assumes responsibility for the security of areas where unauthorized personnel and aircraft are not authorized access and for compliance with the aviation event security plan.
  - c. The IIC has the responsibility to make the holder of the CoW and responsible person, **Sam Parks**, aware of any identified safety concerns and if necessary has the authority for canceling or delaying any or all acts if it is deemed necessary in the interest of safety.
11. Persons or aircraft not appearing on the CoW application and subsequently added to the CoW may not participate without specific approval by the responsible person **Mr. Sam Parks**, and the IIC.
  12. The following facilities shall be provided and readily available at the demonstration site: **Ambulance and Fire Truck.**
  13. The distance from target areas to spectators shall be not less than 200 feet.
  14. Flight lower than 75 feet shall be halted in target areas when unauthorized persons enter the areas or for any other reason in the interest of safety.
  15. Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Demonstrations are not authorized under this CoW.
  16. Rocket Demonstrations are not authorized under this CoW.

## **B. Balloon Special Provisions**

17. 14 CFR § 91.119(b) and (c) are waived to the extent necessary to allow participating balloons to compete in the Great Texas Balloon Race under the terms and conditions set forth in the FAA approved procedures section of the Operations Manual.
18. The Great Texas Balloon Race/US Nationals Operations Manual, dated June 12, 2023 is incorporated into this CoW and becomes a special provision thereof. Any action contrary to the terms, controls, procedures, and conditions pertaining to safety set forth in the FAA approved procedures is grounds for cancellation of this CoW.
19. **Sam Parks** shall ensure that each participant event crewmember has read and understands the FAA approved procedures section of the Great Texas Balloon Race Operations Manual, dated June 12, 2023, and the special provisions of this CoW.

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**PILOT WAIVER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I have read and I understand the conditions of this certificate of waiver. I agree to comply with all of its provisions.

PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE

ISSUED TO: Mr. Sam Parks, Great Texas Balloon Race/US Nationals  
 DATE ISSUED: April 25, 2023  
 VALID: Daily, June 12 to 18, 2023; 0600 to 1000 CDT  
 ISSUED BY: North Texas Flight Standards District Office

No certificate may be issued unless a completed application form has been received (14 C.F.R. 91. 101. and 105).



**US Department of Transportation  
Federal Aviation Administration**

**APPLICATION FOR  
CERTIFICATE OF WAIVER  
OR AUTHORIZATION**

From Approved: O.M.B. No.2120-0027 01/31/2021

**APPLICANTS - DO NOT USE THESE SPACES**

Region <b>Southwest</b>	Date <b>May 15, 2023</b>
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Action  
 Approved     Disapproved – "Explain under "Remarks"  
 Signature of authorized FAA representative

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Submit this application in triplicate (3) to any FAA Flight Standards district office.

Applicants requesting a Certificate of Waiver or Authorization for an aviation event must complete all the applicable items on this form and attach a properly marked 7.5 series Topographic Quadrangle Map(s), published by the U.S. Geological Survey (scale 1:24,000), of the proposed operating area. The map(s) must include scale depictions of the flightlines, showlines, race courses, and the location of the air event control point, Police dispatch, ambulance, and fire

fighting equipment. The applicant may also wish to submit photographs and scale diagrams as supplemental material to assist in the FAA's evaluation of a particular site. Application for a Certificate of Waiver or Authorization must be submitted 45 days prior to the requested date of the event.

Applicants requesting a Certificate of Waiver or Authorization for activities other than an aviation event will complete items 1 through 10 only and the certification, item 17, on the reverse.

1. Name of organization <b>2023 Great Texas Balloon Race/US Nationals</b>		2. Name of responsible person <b>Sam Parks</b>		
3. Permanent mailing address <b>P.O. Box 3988</b>	House number and street or route number	City <b>Longview</b>	State and ZIP code <b>Texas 75606-3988</b>	Telephone No. <b>505-280-0637</b>
4. State whether the applicant or any of its principal officers/owners has an application for waiver pending at any other office of the FAA. <b>N/A</b>				
5. State whether the applicant or any of its principal officers owners has ever had its application for waiver denied, or whether the FAA has ever withdrawn a waiver from the applicant or any of its principal officers/owners. <b>N/A</b>				
6. FAR section and number to be waived <b>91.119 (b) 91.119 (c)</b>				
7. Detailed description of proposed operation (Attach supplement if needed) <b>2023 documentation: 2023 Operations Manual, Emergency Response Plan</b>				
8. Area of operation (Location, altitudes, etc.) <b>10 Nautical mile (10) radius from Operations Headquarters (Maude Cobb Convention and Activity Center) Longview TX from surface to 8,000 AGL</b>				
9a. Beginning (Date and hour) <b>06/12/2023                      06:00:00</b>		b. Ending (Date and hour) <b>06/18/2023                      10:00:00</b>		
10. Aircraft make and model (a)	Pilot's Name (b)	Certificate number and rating (c)	Home address (Street, City, State) (d)	
<b>Final list to be provided</b>	<b>at the close of registration,</b>	<b>prior to the first flight</b>		

**ITEMS 11 THROUGH 16 TO BE FILLED OUT FOR AIR SHOW/AIR RACE WAIVER REQUESTS ONLY.**

11. The air event will be sponsored by:  
**Great Texas Balloon Race**

12. Permanent mailing address	House number and street or route number P.O. Box 3988	City Longview	State and ZIP code TX 75606-3988	Telephone No. 903-643-2107
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13. Policing (Describe provisions to be made for policing the event.)  
**Longview City Police Department**

14. Emergency facilities (Mark all that will be available at time and place of air event.)


Physician                       Fire truck                       Other - Specify \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ambulance                       Crash wagon                      \_\_\_\_\_

15. Air Traffic control (Describe method of controlling traffic, including provision for arrival and departure of scheduled aircraft.)

16. Schedule of Events (include arrival and departure of scheduled aircraft and other periods the airport maybe open.)

Hour (a)	Date (b)	Event (c)
		Hot Air Balloon competition with tasks selected from the Official Rules Inspector in Charge (IIC) will be provided task sheets, describing flight profile for each flight

*If sufficient space is not available, the entire schedule of events may be submitted on separate sheets, in the order and manner indicated above.*

Please Read  The undersigned applicant accepts full responsibility for the strict observance of the terms of the Certificate of Waiver or Authorization, and understands that the authorization contained in such certificate will be strictly limited to the above described operation.

17. Certification - I CERTIFY that the foregoing statements are true.

Date <b>3/10/2023</b>	Signature of Applicant 
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Remarks