



**February 17, 2026**

Dear Competitor,

The U.S. National Hot Air Balloon Championship returns to Scottsbluff, Nebraska and you are invited to participate! The championship dates are August 9-16. Watch Me Fly will once again host the Pilot Application/Registration. Click on the Registration link on the 2026 US Nationals page. If you don't already have a Watch Me Fly account, you will need to establish one before submitting your application. With a WMF account, your registration information will be retained, making it easier for future registrations.

The top 50 ranked pilots from the 2025 National Eligibility List, plus up to 2 pilots chosen by the Organizer, will be selected for participation. Even if you are not in the top 50, you should still submit an application because not all in the top 50 will participate.

The Deadline for registering is 11:59 PM, EST, Friday March 27<sup>th</sup>.

On behalf of the Balloon Federation of America Hot Air Competition Division and the Old West Balloon Fest I hope to see you all in Scottsbluff in August.

Sincerely,

Sam Parks  
Championship Director