

# Students invited to enter hot air balloon contest

**READINGTON** — The QuickChek New Jersey Festival of Ballooning and PNC Bank invite New Jersey students in grades 2-12 to participate in the 15th annual PNC Bank "American Patriot Essay Contest" by writing a short essay on "What the American Flag Means to Me."

The grand prize winner will receive a tethered ride in a 75-foot-tall hot air balloon at his or her school in June and a special VIP package at this year's balloon festival July 27-29 at Solberg Airport in

Readington: a hot air balloon ride for two, four Blue Sky Club VIP tickets, and the chance to meet one of this year's concert headliners.

The winning student's classmates will each receive a complimentary general admission ticket to the festival. Second and third place prizes are festival admission and merchandise. Essays must be 100 words or less. They will be judged on creativity, poignancy and clarity with consideration to the grade level of the contestant.

Entries should be mailed to Essay Judges, QuickChek New Jersey Festival of Ballooning, 363 Route 46 West, Suite 200, Fairfield, NJ, 07004, or emailed to [pncessay@balloonfestival.com](mailto:pncessay@balloonfestival.com). Entries should include the student's name, home or school address, home or school telephone number, grade, age, school name and the name of their teacher.

Deadline to enter is May 1. Additional information may be found at [www.balloonfestival.com/pncessay](http://www.balloonfestival.com/pncessay).

