

March 20, 2019

CIRCULATION: 10,614,000

## 10th Annual Running with the Balloons 5K will take off on July 28



*The 10th annual Running with the Balloons 5K provides participants with the unique opportunity to race through the QuickChek New Jersey Festival of Ballooning as 100 hot air balloons fly overhead.*

### By **Community Bulletin**

For the past nine years, there has been a 5K held in Hunterdon County that is unlike other runs. The race provides participants the opportunity to run as 100 hot air balloons fly overhead.

This year, runners will have the same opportunity. The 10th annual Running with the Balloons 5K will take place at 8 a.m. on Sunday, July 28, at Solberg Airport in Readington during the QuickChek New Jersey Festival of Ballooning.

Runners start off on a grass field near the Festival's Family Fun Center and race past the balloon launch field while the Sunday morning mass hot air balloon ascension takes place. The course takes runners along different surfaces around Solberg Airport and finishes in the heart of the festival.

The experience doesn't end with the race: the top male and female winners each receive a free ride in a hot air balloon.

“This is not your typical 5K,” said festival executive producer Howard Freeman. “The layout of the course is unique. You’re running on multiple surfaces around and through the largest Festival of its kind in North America. And up to 100 hot air balloons are in the sky above you!”

All runners’ entries include free all-day admission into the festival, free parking, lawn seating to Sunday afternoon’s concert by The Beach Boys, a commemorative T-shirt, and access to both that morning’s and evening’s scheduled mass hot air balloon ascensions. The top three overall male and female finishers each receive non-cash prizes.

In keeping with the festival’s belief in “doing well by doing good,” a portion of the proceeds benefit the Girls on the Run, a nonprofit organization dedicated to “creating a world where every girl knows and activates her limitless potential and is free to boldly pursue her dreams, and the Children’s Miracle Network.”

The 37th annual QuickChek New Jersey Festival of Ballooning in Association with PNC Bank, will be held July 26 to 28. The event will feature twice a day mass ascensions of more than 100 sport and special shaped hot air balloons from around the world, live concerts, and family entertainment.

Advance register is strongly suggested for the 10th anniversary of the Running with the Balloons 5K. To register for the USATF-NJ sanctioned race or to learn more, visit [www.balloonfestival.com/entertainment/5k](http://www.balloonfestival.com/entertainment/5k).