



FACTS ABOUT THE GREAT RENO BALLOON RACE

LOCATION: Rancho San Rafael Regional Park

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE: 150,000

DAWN PATROL: 5:30 a.m., Sat. and Sun.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION: 775.348.RIDE (7433)

WEBSITE: www.renoballoon.com

DONATIONS: To make a tax-deductible donation visit www.renoballoon.com

GRBR INFORMATION: 775.826.1181 or tasha@renoballoon.com

ABOUT: The Great Reno Balloon Race is a non-profit organization. Admission is free thanks to sponsorship support.

ADMISSION: Free

MASS ASCENSION: 6:45 a.m. daily, up to 100 balloons

PRIZE PURSE: \$12,000

ROOM INFORMATION: www.visitrenotahoe.com

THE RACE

On-field and Off-field Competition: Mass Ascension marks the beginning of the competition. Up to 100 balloonists pilot balloons to specified targets by directing the aircrafts up or down to catch different air currents. There is tremendous skill along with a bit of luck involved when maneuvering these giants of the sky. Once over their target, the balloonists attempt to hit the "X" with a bean bag. Those landing their bean bags closest to the center score the most points. Cumulative points for all three days of flying determine who wins.

Dawn Patrol: A trademark of The Great Reno Balloon Race and worth the early rise, this show features a handful of balloonists who are qualified to fly in the dark. This is a dangerous task, as atmospheric conditions change drastically as the sun begins to rise. Balloons glow, twinkle and fly along to music and crowd participation on Saturday and Sunday only.

Glow Show: Beginning at 5 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday, glowing balloons act as a beacon to sleepy spectators arriving at the launch field. Friday Morning will host an even larger Glow Show for the first time in 2013 beginning at 5 a.m.

E.L. Cord Tissue Paper Balloon Launch: In conjunction with the Washoe County School District, hundreds of students launch tissue paper balloons into the air. Held Friday only.

Balloon Blackjack: Pilots throw markers at jumbo sized playing cards placed on the field. Those hitting a 21 or closest to it, at the center most spot on the cards wins the hand of the day.

Balloon Boulevard: Official posters and Balloon Race merchandise, crafts, souvenirs, food and warm drinks for spectators.

DIRECTIONS

From I-80 take the Virginia St. exit and go north one mile to Lawlor Events Center on the campus of the University of Nevada, Reno. Parking is permitted at the lots north of Lawlor Events Center. Rancho San Rafael is a couple blocks west of the university. A map is available at www.renoballoon.com. **Parking at Rancho San Rafael is extremely limited.** Arrive early to avoid traffic.

OTHER

Tethered rides are a \$5 donation to charity and are available Saturday and Sunday. **Please leave pets at home.** Thousands of people and unpredictable sounds leave animals confused and anxious.