



# Up and Away with Hot Air Balloons

**Up and Away with Hot Air Balloons** is a unique, educational program for elementary and secondary schools that combines the excitement of a hot air balloon with a wealth of teaching experience. The program consists of two segments: an education session and a live demonstration.

### Slide Presentation

The pilot shares how balloons work and what they are used for today. The education session includes: the history of ballooning and aviation, the effects of weather, the mechanics of modern ballooning, licensing, character, careers, and *how the "natural high" of flying is better than drugs*. This portion of the program is time-flexible, and can be tailored to any subject; emphasizing science or complementing a reading program, for example.

### Live Demonstration

The live demonstration is where students see the balloon in action...inflated, up close and personal! Witnessing first-hand an inflation of a real balloon is an inspiring sight, one that students and teachers alike will never forget. The demonstration can be performed indoors, outdoors, or both! The balloon will be inflated right before student's eyes, a true marvel in size and stature.

### Outdoor Demonstration

This is most similar to a standard balloon inflation, one that would be seen at a festival or other event. The balloon is secured to the ground with tether ropes and is completely assembled and inflated with cold air. The pilot then heats the air with the burners mounted on the basket. Be amazed as the balloon stands up and is ready to fly. Conditions permitting, the balloon can be lifted to about 50 feet for short rides to a few passengers.

### Indoor Demonstration

This is an equally exciting alternative to the outdoor demonstration, and acts as a backup in poor weather. The envelope of the balloon is spread across the floor and inflated with electric fans. The balloon inflates lying on its side, and although it does not stand or fly, its size is more obvious to students indoors. Students are taken inside the balloon for a demonstration. The weight of the air in the balloon, as well as the weight it can carry is emphasized. Students will be educated on how a balloon is built and become aware of detail unable to be seen from the outside of the envelope. The indoor inflation has the capacity to hold between 400-500 students as long as the facility is large enough.



**Academic Entertainment** Call: (800) 883- 9883

Email: [info@academicentertainment.com](mailto:info@academicentertainment.com)

Web: [www.AcademicEntertainment.com](http://www.AcademicEntertainment.com)





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## Up and Away with Hot Air Balloons Program Specifications

**Length of slide-show presentation:** Approx. 30 min.

**Length of balloon demonstration:** Approx. 45 min.

**Audience size:**

- **Outdoor demonstration:** No limit.
- **Indoor demonstration:** Depends on size of the facility. The balloon has the capacity to fit between 400-500 students.
- **Slide talk:** No specific limit, teaching is better with smaller groups and narrower age ranges. If your school has 500 students in grades K-5 we could do one talk for everyone. But quality of learning will probably be better with two or three groups.

**Set up:** We will arrive at your building at least one hour prior to start time.

**Pack up:** Approx. 30 min.

**Presentation Area:**

- **Outdoors:** Approx. 200' x 200', preferable a grassy surface. Must be free of obstacles including power lines.
- **Indoors:** Height of ceiling is NOT an issue. Lighting IS an issue—slide show requires a t least partially darkened area. Gymnasium, cafeteria, or multi-purpose room is fine.

**Assistance:**

- **Outdoor inflation:** Three to five able-bodied adults.
- **Indoor inflation:** Two adults or reliable older students.
- **Pack-up:** Two to three adults or equivalent student help.

**Equipment Requirements:**

- Access to electrical outlets
- PA System if available
- Media cart of small table for projector
- Projection screen

