



Thank you for joining us for the 6th annual Warren County Hot Air Balloons, Fun & Games Festival at Warren County Community College.

I always have to mention that without my late husband Fred's vision and inspiration, these events would not be happening. It started with his vision to have a hot air balloon festival as part of our local Warren County Farmers' Fair 26 years ago. Fred was a lifelong resident of Harmony Township, and he loved the Fair growing up. He thought introducing balloons to the event would revitalize it. And it did! But during COVID, the event was canceled. That didn't stop a small group of people from holding a balloon festival at the campus of longtime sponsor Warren County Community College in Washington. We held what we thought

would be a temporary, once-and-done event. There were many obstacles, but we pulled it off, inspired by Fred's example of never giving up.

Proceeds from the event support three meaningful causes: the Warren County Community College Foundation, the Fred Grotenhuis Scholarships, and the Fred T. Grotenhuis Veterans Community Center project. In 2024, we were able to install an outdoor gym at the Harmony Township Recreation Field. The next project planned is a meditation circle.

In early 2026, despite uncooperative weather, we were able to make meaningful contributions to WarrenUAS and the nursing program at the college through the Foundation.

While you're here, take time to enjoy the campus, including the 1.2-mile Walking Trail. Enjoy the Meditation Garden and 911 Memorial, serene spaces for relaxation and reflection on campus.

This festival is a testament to the hard work and dedication of many individuals and groups. Our thanks go out to our host, sponsors, pilots, crew members, volunteers, and local government that make these events possible. We are especially grateful to the local fire departments, EMTs, and police personnel, both on-site and on-call, for ensuring everyone's safety.

Thank you to all our supporters for making the balloon festivals in beautiful Warren County, New Jersey, such a success. And to all of you who come out to support us, a huge thank you!

With love and gratitude,

Giulia Grotenhuis
Giulia Grotenhuis

Warren County Hot Air Balloons, Fun & Games Festival

September 19 & 20, 2026

Hosted by **Warren County Community College**

475 Route 57, Washington, NJ



Warren
Community College



Made possible by funds from the
New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner
agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.



DAILY UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

6:30 AM Balloon Launch

Enjoy an early morning lift off as some balloon pilots take to the skies for a morning launch at sunrise. *Note: There is no admission charge to view the balloons in the morning. The festival opens at 1 pm, when admission kicks in and the festivities begin.*

12 - 1 PM (Saturday) Registration for Hot Rides & Hot Air Balloons Car & Truck Show

1 PM Gates Open Games, Arts & Crafts, Non-Profit Vendors, Food Trucks. Bring lawn chairs and blankets for the shows (*please leave pets and alcohol home*)

1-4 PM (Saturday) *StoneHearth Bluegrass Band Music Tent #2

(Sunday) *TimeWhys Band Music Tent #1

1 - 5 PM (Saturday) Hot Rides & Hot Air Balloons Car & Truck Show Participant Judged, People's Choice and Best of Show trophies awarded at 5pm.

1 - 5 PM WarrenUAS Staff shows off Spot, the robot dog and answers questions about the WarrenUAS program at the college.

1 - 7 PM Fascination Place Kids' Activity Area Enjoy making crafts, playing puzzles, and more. (Free) **Games, Games, Games! (Free)** Mini Golf, Tee Ball, Rocket Ready, Basketball
(\$5/10) Autocades Games Trailer • Gel Blasters • Photo Booth • Bounce House with Slide • Ride on Cars
Purchase Games tickets at the Balloon Ride/Info booth. The cost is \$5 per ticket, 6 pack for \$25 and a 10 pack for \$35. The more you buy the more you save.

1:30 - 4:30 PM *Rocket Ready Experience the sheer joy and excitement of creating and launching your very own rocket! Children aged 4 to 94 can participate in this FREE activity with guidance from Mission Control.

2 - 5 PM (Saturday) Strolling & Music Tent #3 *Dulcimers

3 - 5 PM (Sunday) Strolling *Road Less Traveled Barbershop Quartet

4 - 5 PM The Pro Kids Holiday Vocal Troupe Music Tent #3 These youth share their incredible voices and harmonies for an amazing show.

4 - 6 PM Strolling Grins and Grins Learn Circus Tricks with Grins & Grins. One of our most popular activities and it's free!

4:30 PM (tentative start time) Tethered Rides Get tickets at the Balloon Ride Tent, on sale 1 hour before start time, based on weather each day. \$30 adult \$20 youth ages 4-12

5 - 7 PM (Sunday) Nickel High Five Music Tent #1

5 - 8 PM (Saturday) *Zaire Band Music Tent #1

5:15 PM Hot Air Balloon Inflation and Launch (May be delayed by current weather)

6 PM Meet the Pilots Pilots will be on the field to talk balloons with visitors!

6 - 8:30 PM Mini Balloon Pilot Lessons (\$) Sign up for a 25 minute flight session with an instructor. (Space limited)

6:30 - 8:30 PM Dance Party with DJ Goldn Music Tent #2 Dance Party with DJ Goldn. Kids especially will enjoy this dance party where they can win prizes and get their glow bracelets to light it up the Balloon Glow when night falls.

7:30 PM As the night falls, enjoy the **Balloon Glow** - featuring the **US Flag Balloon**, an awesome balloon, standing tall and proud. Trick or treat along the glow but watch out for **Fred G Monster!**

Schedule subject to change. No Refunds on admission for lack of balloon activity, which is weather dependant.

Special Thanks To Our Sponsors

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