



Be A Part of Something Great

Hopefully by now you've heard the exciting news: Textron Aviation once again will coordinate the Special Olympics Airlift for the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games in June in Orlando, Florida.

This signature industry endeavor provides a unique opportunity for our aviation community to give back in a meaningful way. Travel is the largest expense for Special Olympics competitions, and this Airlift has provided free transportation for nearly 10,000 athletes and coaches dating back to 1987.

With your help, youth and adults with intellectual disabilities will travel to compete in the country's most cherished sporting event and continue to develop new strengths and life skills.

Initial response from owners and operators after we made the announcement in March was excellent. We are off to a great start to meet our goal of recruiting nearly 200 aircraft by 2/28! It's an aggressive target but one worth striving to meet.

While Textron Aviation coordinates the event alongside industry partners, the Airlift simply cannot happen without generous people like you donating your aircraft, fuel and pilots.

Please take a few minutes to read more about the Airlift experience. Whether this will be your first or your eighth Airlift, I hope you'll consider joining us in lifting others up and supporting our communities.

Together, we can give these athletes a once-in-a-lifetime aviation experience.

Ronald W. Draper
President and CEO, Textron Aviation

We Need You!

HOW MANY

More than 200 Aircraft

WHAT

Cessna Citation
Beechcraft King Air
Beechcraft Premier
Beechjet
Hawker

FOR

2022 Special Olympics Airlift
for the Special Olympics USA Games

WHERE

From airports across the U.S. to Orlando Executive Airport (KORL)

WHEN

Saturday, June 4 and Sunday, June 12, 2022



CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT

Connecticut-based Whelen Engineering registers for sixth Airlift

As long as Whelen Engineering has owned a Cessna Citation airplane, the Connecticut-based manufacturer has donated use of its business jet, fuel and pilots to the Special Olympics Airlift—making the 2022 Airlift the sixth time the company has participated. According to Whelen’s leaders, the company continues its involvement because the event is rewarding, well-organized and supports their community initiatives.

“We’re honored to again be part of the Airlift, a great event that supports a cause important to the owners, leadership and employees at Whelen,” said Geoff Marsh, who became President and CEO of Whelen Engineering in 2020 after 26 years with the company. “What better time than now, after the kind of year we’ve all gone through, to volunteer for such an important effort.”

Whelen’s chief pilot Dennis Piscitello agrees. “Flying in the Airlift is the most rewarding flying I’ve ever done,” said the 18,000-hour pilot, who has worked for Whelen since 2000. “It’s an absolutely amazing experience as a pilot, and I’m thankful to have a company and owners who support our involvement year after year.”

Whelen employees have been involved with the Special Olympics at the local and state levels for decades, from inviting law enforcement to start their torch runs at the factory to designing a new LED torch to be used.

WHELEN’S ROOTS IN AVIATION

When pilot and engineer George W. Whelen III started tinkering in his garage in Deep River, Connecticut, no one could have predicted how far his desire to develop better lighting for his airplane would take him. But by 1952, he’d invented a rotating anti-collision beacon for the tail of his plane and Whelen Engineering was born.

Today, the company is a global leader in emergency warning innovations, designing and manufacturing audio and visual warning equipment for the automotive, aviation and mass notification industries. About 1,200 employees work at facilities in Connecticut, New Hampshire and Florida.

“The experience of transporting these athletes is as rewarding for the flight crews and volunteers as it is for the athletes themselves.”

Join Whelen Engineering and register for the Airlift at txtav.com/airlift.

Whelen Engineering has owned at least seven Cessna Citations through the years, ranging from Excel/XLS and Sovereign models to their current Latitude. Purchased new in 2017, the Latitude has 2,500 total hours and was flying about 50 hours a month before the pandemic.

Whelen continues to invest in its aviation business. In 2019, Whelen Engineering’s Aviation Division and LoPresti Aviation merged to form Whelen Aerospace Technologies. In addition to being a Textron Aviation customer, the company is a supplier of lighting systems installed across the Beechcraft and Cessna product lines.

With its long history of aviation and community service, the Special Olympics Airlift is a perfect fit for Whelen. And they hope their commitment to the initiative inspires others to participate.

“I highly recommend it,” Marsh said. “The experience of transporting these athletes is as rewarding for the flight crews and volunteers as it is for the athletes themselves.”



Tax-deductible benefits of your Airlift participation

Did you know that part of your participation in the Special Olympics Airlift may be a charitable contribution? State Special Olympics organizations financially benefit from your Airlift contributions. Because of the travel you provide, these state organizations are relieved of paying for commercial travel for their athletes and coaches. Therefore, your participation may be a charitable gift to the state organization you are supporting.

As a general rule, a tax deduction is allowed for unreimbursed incidental expenses made in the course of rendering services for a charity. Expenses associated with your Airlift flights such as fuel, landing fees and hangar fees may count toward your total charitable gift.

TEXTRON AVIATION WILL ASSIST YOU BY CONNECTING YOU WITH YOUR STATE ORGANIZATION

Textron Aviation will send owners a "Certificate of Donation" immediately after the Airlift. We will include a self-addressed envelope so you can send the completed document to the Executive Director of Special Olympics for the state for which you transported athletes. That state program will acknowledge the donation and return the document for you to use as your charitable gift documentation for tax purposes.

SECURE YOUR TAX DEDUCTION BY TAKING THE FOLLOWING STEPS

- Be prepared to provide the charity with written documentation about the nature of your volunteering activity.

- For substantial out-of-pocket expenses, keep a statement of expenses and copies of receipts to submit to the charity for acknowledgement of the contribution.
- Maintain a detailed record of receipts, plus a written record of time, place, amount and charitable purpose.
- No deduction is allowed for the actual services performed on behalf of a charitable organization. Additionally, incurred expenses that do not primarily benefit the charity are not deductible (i.e., maintenance fees).

This is intended as general information only and does not constitute tax advice. Please consult your tax advisor to determine whether and to what extent you may qualify for the deduction of unreimbursed expenses incurred for the 2022 Special Olympics Airlift as a charitable donation. Every situation is unique and restrictions may apply.

What to expect as an Airlift participant

Thousands of athletes and coaches will travel from all over the U.S. as well as the Caribbean and Puerto Rico to participate in the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games, so we have a wide range of locations available for you to pick up and drop off athletes.

We ask that if possible operators fly a two-pilot crew and commit to both legs of the Airlift — Saturday, June 4 and Sunday, June 12. Each aircraft can expect to carry between three to seven athletes plus a coach or sponsor from their home base to the USA Games and back.

All aircraft will fly into Orlando Executive Airport (KORL) for the games. KORL is a Class D airport with a 6,004' and 4,625' runway with JET A fuel available. Our team has worked hard to create an efficient and enjoyable Airlift. We have designed the process to allow you to drop off your passengers and turn around quickly, considering ramp space limits and high traffic in the south-east corridor.

"Traveling to Orlando for the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games may be the first time some of our athletes ever leave their hometown, let alone fly on an airplane," said Tony Wyllie, regional president, Special Olympics North America.

"The travel experience provided by Textron Aviation and its customers will be the ultimate bookends for one unforgettable week."

Tony Wyllie
Regional President, Special Olympics
North America

Once you are registered, you will receive a letter with an SOA decal, a medallion for your aircraft and additional information on your participation. In May 2022, you will receive a package that includes all the information you need for your Airlift participation, including your special "Dove" call sign.

Athlete Spotlight

Brandi Fogg | Kansas

Brandi was 19 years old when she started playing basketball, golf, soccer, softball, tennis and volleyball with the Air Capital Flyers, a Special Olympics program in Wichita, Kansas. Now 30 years old, she's proud to have been invited to her first national competition. She'll compete in tennis at the 2022 USA Games in Orlando, Florida.

"I am excited but nervous because this will be the first time I travel independently without my family right next to me," Brandi said.

In addition to making great friendships, Brandi says Special Olympics inspired her to buy her first car with money she earned from a job at Goodwill Industries.

"Being involved in Special Olympics gives me the motivation to get up and go to work and to save money for car repairs, insurance and gas so I can continue to make it to practice to get better at my sport, help my team and see my friends at practice and outside of practice when we hang out," she said.

Learn more about the USA Games and the athletes who will compete there at 2022specialolympicsusagames.org.

Register Today

While the athletes are preparing for competition, we are preparing to get them to the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games with your help. It's easy to register your aircraft for the Special Olympics Airlift using the online form at txtav.com/airlift.

We hope that you can provide one or more of the nearly 200 aircraft needed to transport athletes and coaches from around the country to the Special Olympics USA Games in Orlando, Florida. The aircraft will depart their designated locations on Saturday, June 4, 2022, to transport athletes and coaches to the games and return them on Sunday, June 12, 2022.

If you own one or more of the following aircraft, please consider donating the use of your aircraft, a two-pilot crew and fuel for this great cause:

- Cessna Citation Aircraft
- Beechcraft King Air Aircraft
- Beechcraft Premier Aircraft
- Beechcraft Beechjet Aircraft
- Hawker Aircraft

CONTACT US

Please reach out if you have any questions about the Special Olympics Airlift.

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Everybody needs a lift every now and then.TM

