SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR HOT AIR BALLOON FESTIVAL CREW MEMBERS

PINE MOUNTAIN, GA (08/09/2017) – Become a part of Callaway Gardens’ 19th annual Sky High Hot Air Balloon Festival, Sept. 1-3, 2017, by joining a balloon crew. It’s a terrific way to get involved with your community and experience ballooning first hand and comes with perks.

Crews assist pilots with inflating, tethering, and packing the balloons. A good pair of gloves and a little time are all that are needed. In return, crew members learn about ballooning and have access to the balloon festival and all the great activities and attractions at Callaway Gardens.

There is a Balloon Glow on Friday and Sunday with set-up beginning around 7 p.m. The tethers are Saturday, Sept. 2, and Sunday, Sept. 3, starting between 6:30 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. and again between 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Pilots will offer tethered rides as long as the winds are calmest, and will need assistance.

Crew members must be at least 18 years old and be able to volunteer at the Balloon Glow on Friday night and for both flights on Saturday and Sunday. Each balloon needs a four- or five-member crew.
If you are interested in becoming a crew member and have questions about the event, please contact Carson Bayer, Callaway Gardens’ director of special events, at cbayer@callawaygardens.com.

The **Sky High Hot Air Balloon Festival** will be an exciting time and becoming a crew member is a great way help make this event safe for members of our community and successful for the thousands of visitors who will be in town to enjoy Labor Day weekend.

Callaway Gardens is in Pine Mountain, GA, 60 minutes south of Atlanta and 30 minutes north of Columbus, GA. For general information about Callaway Gardens or the Sky High Hot Air Balloon Festival, visit [www.callwaygardens.com](http://www.callwaygardens.com) or call 1.800.463.6990.

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**About Callaway Gardens**
For more than 60 years, Callaway Gardens has provided “a place of relaxation, inspiration and a better understanding of the living world” for millions of visitors. Owned and operated by the non-profit Ida Cason Callaway Foundation, Callaway Gardens includes a gardens and resort on 2,500 acres in Pine Mountain, Georgia. Highlights include a butterfly conservatory, discovery center, chapel, inland beach, nature trails, a zip line/obstacle course and special events throughout the year.

In addition, Callaway Gardens offers meeting space, 674 guest rooms, spa, restaurants, shops, golf, tennis, fishing and more.