



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For Further Information Contact:  
Jessica Stegen, 314-518-4283

[jessica.stegen@greatforestparkballoonrace.com](mailto:jessica.stegen@greatforestparkballoonrace.com)

**THE GREAT FOREST PARK BALLOON RACE TAKES OFF THIS WEEKEND IN FOREST PARK**

*The event will feature more than 60 hot air balloons,  
including a brand new PNC Bank balloon to lead the race!*

**ST. LOUIS, Sept. 17, 2019** – The Great Forest Park Balloon Race presented by PNC Bank is thrilled to return to Central Fields for its 47<sup>th</sup> year Sept. 20-21. More than 1,000 hot air balloons have taken part in the Great Forest Park Balloon Race over the years, and 60 more balloons will be added to that total this year.

Filled with more than hot air – this annual September tradition brings families and friends together for a day of “wow” moments, new experiences and memories that will last a lifetime. Thanks to the generous contributions of our sponsors attendance is FREE to all St. Louisians.

"The Great Forest Park Balloon Race is internationally known as one of the most prestigious balloon races, made especially unique by having a launch site in a major metropolitan area," said Brian Schettler, Great Forest Park Balloon Race partner. "Central Fields in Forest Park is an ideal location for our launch field, allowing for greater access to public parking and event space perfect for hosting a wide-range of festivities for attendees to enjoy."

This year, presenting sponsor of the race, PNC Bank, will wow festival-goers with its very own custom hot air balloon! After more than 350 hours of work and more than 782 yards of light-weight nylon fabric, this beautiful new balloon will make its debut flight through the St. Louis skies Saturday, Sept. 21.

"We've been a part of the Great Forest Park Balloon Race for more than nine years because we understand how important community traditions like this are, especially for the growth, development and economic vitality of our city," said Michael Scully, PNC regional president for St. Louis.

Along with the PNC balloon, race attendees will have the opportunity to experience the PNC Mobile Learning Adventure, a traveling exhibit that provides an opportunity for parents and caregivers to learn about the importance of early childhood education through fun activities with their kids. The exhibit is part of PNC's 15-year focus on early childhood education through its \$500 million initiative, PNC Grow Up Great, and will be located on the event midway throughout the day on Saturday, Sept. 20.

Full event schedule for the Great Forest Park Balloon Race is below. Updates and announcements including VIP and GLOW BAR ticket opportunities, entertainment, maps and parking information will continue to be updated on the event website, [www.greatforestparkballoonrace.com](http://www.greatforestparkballoonrace.com).

**About PNC Bank**

PNC Bank, National Association, is a member of The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. (NYSE: PNC). PNC is one of the largest diversified financial services institutions in the United States, organized around its

customers and communities for strong relationships and local delivery of retail and business banking including a full range of lending products; specialized services for corporations and government entities, including corporate banking, real estate finance and asset-based lending; wealth management and asset management. For information about PNC, visit [www.pnc.com](http://www.pnc.com).

### **About The Great Forest Park Balloon Race**

The Great Forest Park Balloon Race is a two-day event held in St. Louis, Missouri – annually celebrating soft landings and family traditions since 1973. It is the second oldest balloon race in the United States and remains a free event for everyone to enjoy. The Great Forest Park Balloon Race was inducted into the permanent collection of the Library of Congress on May 23, 2000. The induction honors the race as a *Local Legacy* and documents the race as a “*meaningful and significant American community tradition.*”

### **Great Forest Park Balloon Race Schedule**

*The Great Forest Park Balloon Race is always free to attend!*

#### **Friday, September 20, 2019**

##### **5:00 p.m. – The Balloon Glow at Central Fields**

Plan ahead, find the perfect viewing area for you and your family and join us for dinner at Central Fields! Enjoy tasty fare from food trucks, concessionaires, and activities - all open beginning at 5 p.m. Or pack your own (soft-sided coolers, please) and settle in at one of the Enterprise Family Picnic areas!

##### **6:00 p.m. – Live Music from Boogie Chyld on the Maryville University Main Stage**

##### **Dusk until 9 p.m. – Balloon Glow officially begins.**

The balloons “glow” like huge fireflies, a truly magical scene, and one not to be missed! The balloons do not launch during the balloon glow but for a portion of the evening (weather permitting) the rope line will be released, and spectators will be invited to walk around to enjoy the view and chat with pilots and crew.

##### **9:15 p.m. — PNC Bank Fireworks Finale**

#### **Saturday, September 16, 2017**

##### **12:00 p.m. – The Great Forest Park Balloon Race Festivities Begin**

- Maryville University Main Stage featuring DJ Reggie
- Enterprise Family Picnic Areas Open
- Purina Children’s Entertainment Area Opens Featuring:
  - Purina Pro Plan Performance Team
  - Putt for a Prize with St. Louis Children’s Hospital
  - PNC Mobile Learning Adventure
  - Performances from local St. Louis dance and theatre troupes
  - Inflatables, games, giveaways
- Midway concessions, food trucks and sponsor activities begin – including fun and giveaways from Phillips 66, MO Lottery, Marcus Wehrenberg Theatres and more.

##### **3:00 p.m. – Skydivers take flight**

##### **3:30 p.m. – Opening Ceremonies**

##### **4:30 p.m. – PNC Bank “Hare” Balloon Launches**

##### **4:45 p.m. – “Hound” Balloons Launch**

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