



**Ascension Parish
Tourism Commission**
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Southeast Tourism Society Selects Ascension Hot Air Balloon Festival as a 'STS Top 20 Event' *Travel industry organization has saluted region's best events since 1985*

ATLANTA, Ga. (date) – The Southeast Tourism Society has named **Ascension Hot Air Balloon Festival** one of the STS Top 20 Event in the Southeast for September, 2016.

This year's Ascension Hot Air Balloon Festival is September 23rd & 24th. The STS Top 20 Festival and Events Awards have highlighted programs around the Southeast since 1985.

Travel industry experts select 20 events per month, and STS publicizes them throughout the United States. The complete list is published on two websites: EscapeToTheSoutheast.com and [Travel Media Press Room](http://TravelMediaPressRoom.com).

"Pilots come from all over of the country to participate in this family friendly festival. It's the largest festival in our Parish with over 45,000 in attendance drawing people from the surrounding areas", said Tracy Browning, Executive Director of Ascension Parish Tourism Commission.

This fun, family event is for all ages on the beautiful grounds of Lamar Dixon Expo Center. Weather permitting, the colorful hot air balloons will fill the skies for competition flights in the early mornings each day flying over the parish depending on the wind direction. During the day, the children's village will have a petting zoo, face painting, arts & crafts and magic shows for children. There are also carnival rides, tethered balloon rides, a car show, and a Bar B Que competition. Arts & Crafts booths are open in the Trademart building as well as a powered parachute display, live music, and great food will be on the grounds. Hot air balloons will glow on the grounds each night and you can get up close and personal with the pilots. Nothing can be better than to end the evening with the sky filled in color with a fabulous fireworks show! www.Ascensionballooning.com

"The Southeast Tourism Society's Top 20 Festival and Event list is an excellent guide for the Southeast's visitors and residents. Events selected represent the best, and



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often most unique, activities in our region,” said Bill Hardman, president and CEO of the Southeast Tourism Society.

Events considered for the STS Top 20 recognition must be at least three years old and have attendance of at least 1,000. Nomination forms and deadlines are available at SoutheastTourism.org or by calling 770-542-1523.

STS, founded in 1983 and headquartered in Atlanta, Ga., is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting tourism to and within 12 states – Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

