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Beautiful Balloons— Hot Air Balloon Events
By: Amber Stephens

When Mindi Gliatti surprised her husband, Mike, with a hot air balloon ride for their fifth wedding anniversary, it was love at first flight. Within three weeks, he was volunteering with the crew. It wasn't long before Gliatti traded in his high power career for a high flying business as a commercial balloon pilot.

This year Gliatti-and several other balloon pilots-will compete during the MidFirst Ohio Challenge, an annual hot air balloon competition held each July in Middletown. The challenge, which started in 2003, attracts more than 70,000 visitors annually who come to watch the balloons compete, along with other activities that include skydiving demonstrations, live entertainment, a car show and carnival.

Discover Ohio balloon events that are fun for the whole family.

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