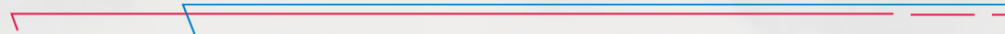


2026 SPECIAL OLYMPICS AIRLIFT

Everybody needs a lift every now and then



2026 HYPE VIDEO



- <https://vimeo.com/digitalbrand/review/1070057684/29874dbb10>
 - Once video is approved, video will be embedded

WHAT IS SOA?




- The Special Olympics Airlift (SOA), organized by Textron Aviation in collaboration with the Special Olympics USA Games, mobilizes hundreds of volunteer Cessna and Beechcraft pilots and aircraft from across the country to create the largest peacetime airlift and provide a once-in-a-lifetime experience for Special Olympics athletes.
- Since the inception of the Special Olympics Airlift in 1987, Cessna, Beechcraft and Hawker owners have transported more than 10,000 athletes and coaches to various Special Olympics Games.
- Each Airlift event builds on the success of previous years, continually growing in scale and impact. During the 2026 event, participating aircraft known as “Doves” are expected to touch down or take off from St. Paul Downtown Airport (STP) every three minutes throughout a 10-hour period.

HISTORIC IMPACT



- 1985** Cessna Aircraft Company, transported the Special Olympics Kansas delegation in two Cessna Citation business jets to the International Winter Games in **Salt Lake City, Utah.**
- 1987** First Citation Special Olympics Airlift to the International Summer Games in **South Bend, Ind.**
132 Citations = 1,000 athletes and their coaches
- 1991** Second Citation Special Olympics Airlift to **St. Paul/Minneapolis, Minn.**, for the International Summer Games.
180 Citations = 1,400 athletes and coaches
- 1995** Third Citation Special Olympics Airlift to **Hartford, Conn.**, for the International Summer Games.
197 Citations = 1,600 athletes and coaches
- 1999** Fourth Citation Special Olympics Airlift to **Raleigh-Durham, N.C.**, for the International Summer Games
260 Citations = 2,000 athletes and coaches
- 2006** Fifth Citation Special Olympics Airlift to the first U.S. National Games in **Des Moines, Iowa.**
235 Citations = 1,500 athletes and coaches
- 2010** Sixth Citation Special Olympics Airlift to the U.S. National Games in **Lincoln, Neb.**
160 Citations = 830 athletes and coaches
- 2014** Seventh Citation Special Olympics Airlift to the U.S. National Games in **Trenton, NJ**
97 Citations = 600 athletes and coaches
- 2022** Eighth Citation Special Olympics Airlift to the U.S. National Games in **Orlando, FL**
120 Citations = 800 athletes and coaches

[Watch CBS Evening News: 2022 Special Olympics kick off in Orlando - Full show on CBS](#)



CBS EVENING NEWS

WITH **NORAH O'DONNELL**

0.02092

24.7893

2026 SCHEDULE



Athlete Arrival
FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2026

Athlete Departure
SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2026



SPECIAL OLYMPICS
USA GAMES
MINNESOTA 2026

Everybody needs a lift every now and then

WHAT'S A DOVE?



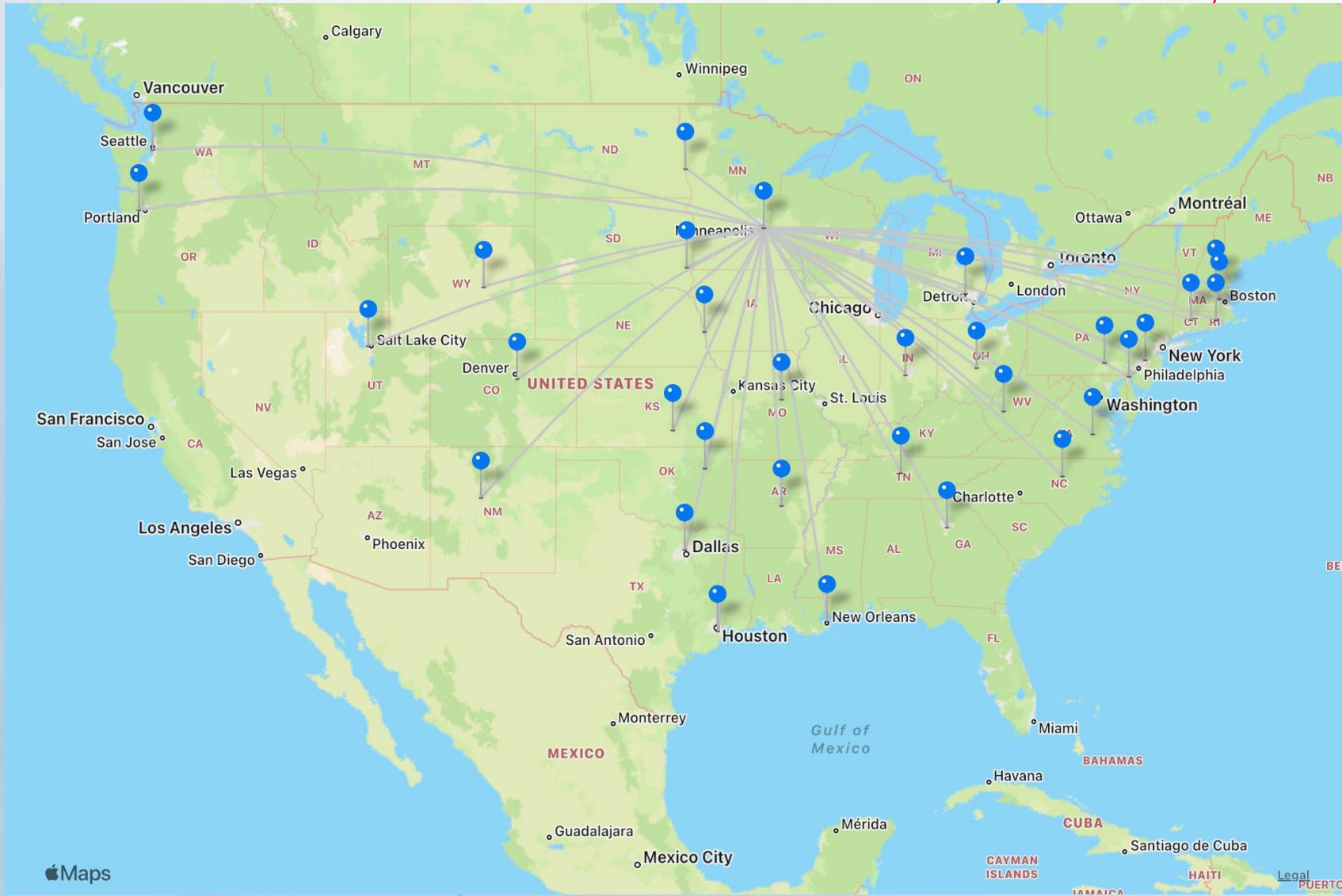
- Doves are a symbol of peace, and this is the largest peacetime airlift, showcasing the power of aviation collaboration and community spirit.
- Participating aircraft – referred to as “Doves” – are given National Airspace System priority by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) while flying in the Airlift .
- The prestigious Doves designation is given to owners and operators who donate the use of their aircraft to transport athletes to and from the Special Olympics USA Games.

2025 ANNOUNCEMENT VIDEO



- <https://vimeo.com/digitalbrand/review/1070052215/9529a934b7>
 - Once video is approved, video will be embedded

WE NEED YOU



- Cessna, Beechcraft and Hawker pilots and aircraft
- Lower 48 state participation

Preliminary pending FAA approval

EVENT GOALS



Provide a CHAMPIONSHIP experience for CHAMPIONSHIP athletes

- Safety always
- Exceptional athlete, donor and volunteer experience
- Expanded awareness at a national scale



AIRLIFT QUESTIONS

airlift@txtav.com

WEBSITE

AIRLIFT.TXTAV.COM

[Special Olympics Airlift 2022 Wrap Up](#) | [Textron Aviation](#)
[Media Center](#)