



Key Messages | Special Olympics Airlift

The Special Olympics Airlift, organized by Textron Aviation and its customers in collaboration with the Special Olympics USA Games, is a powerful demonstration of aviation community and impact. The event mobilizes hundreds of volunteer pilots and aircraft from across the country to create the largest peacetime airlift. This collective effort ensures that athletes from all corners of the nation can travel to the host city, regardless of financial or logistical challenges.

Event Overview:

- The Special Olympics Airlift is a unique event organized by Textron Aviation in partnership with the Special Olympics USA Games and Cessna, Beechcraft and Hawker customers.
- It mobilizes hundreds of volunteer pilots and aircraft to transport hundreds of athletes and coaches to the USA Games.
- Textron Aviation is calling on Cessna Citation, Beechcraft King Air and Hawker business jet owners to support the 2026 Games
 - Arrival date: Friday, June 19, 2026
 - Departure date: Saturday, June 27, 2026
 - Airport: St. Paul Downtown Airport Holman Field (KSTP), MN

Scale and Impact:

- The Airlift is the world's largest peacetime airlift, showcasing the power of aviation collaboration and community spirit.
- It ensures that athletes from all corners of the nation can participate in the Games, overcoming financial and logistical barriers.
- Aircraft will touch down or take off from KSTP every three minutes throughout a 10-hour period.

Volunteer Participation:

- Owners and operators of Cessna Citation, Beechcraft King Air and Hawker business jets are invited to volunteer their aircraft and time.
- Volunteers become part of a legendary team, enjoying the privilege of transporting hundreds of athletes and coaches.

Community and Support:

- The event is supported by generous customers, industry partners and volunteers.
- It highlights the dedication and commitment of the aviation community to give back and support the Special Olympics.
- We are seeking donations of aircraft and pilot services, fuel, cash donations and other in-kind support to ensure a successful airlift.

Historical Significance:

- The 2026 Airlift will be the ninth event coordinated by Textron Aviation.
- Each Airlift event builds on the success of previous years, continually growing in scale and impact.
- Since 1987, more than 10,000 athletes have been transported by the Airlift.