

# City of Wichita recognizes Textron Aviation-led Airlift that brings together for community

The City of Wichita is honoring a signature Airlift Month, led by Textron Aviation employees and the lawker community, including aircraft owners and Special Olympics athletes to the USA Games.

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▲ City of Wichita leaders recognize Special Olympics Airlift Month alongside Textron Aviation employees and Special Olympics athletes, coaches and supporters.

## Why It Matters

For many athletes, the journey to the Special Olympics USA Games begins long before they step onto the field of competition. The Special Olympics Airlift removes barriers that might otherwise prevent athletes and coaches from participating, providing reliable transportation and a welcoming experience from the moment they depart. Founded in 1987 and strengthened by the combined heritage of Cessna, Beechcraft and Hawker, the Airlift brings

together aircraft owners, operators, pilots and volunteers who donate their time and resources in service of athletes. The 2026 event will mark the ninth coordinated Airlift, supporting athletes traveling to the Special Olympics USA Games in Minnesota's Twin Cities.

## About the Special Olympics Airlift

A nationwide effort to support Special Olympics athletes traveling to the Special Olympics USA Games in Minnesota's Twin Cities.

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- Aviation communities are essential to transporting athletes to the Games. Cessna, Beechcraft and other general aviation aircraft are used to transport athletes to the Games.
- Removing barriers to participation The Airlift addresses the cost and complexity of travel, ensuring athletes can focus on competing, connecting and experiencing the Games.



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## Key Facts

- More than 120 aircraft known as Doves will take part in the 2026 mission, representing one of the largest coordinated efforts in general aviation

- More than 800 athletes and coaches will be transported, removing one of the biggest barriers to competing at the USA Games
- Aircraft will arrive or depart every 3 to 4 minutes during a 10-hour window, reflecting the scale and precision of the event
- Volunteer owners will be encouraged to donate their aircraft to the USA Games community
- Since 1987, the AOPA has been a leading voice for pilots and aviation in the USA. Learn more and find out how you can get involved.

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## Contact details

### Airlift Questions

[airlift@txtav.com](mailto:airlift@txtav.com)

### Copy link

<https://airlift.txtav.com/cessna-and-beechcraft>

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