

Several states still need airplanes

Brandon Mullin was a decent athlete and not afraid to try out for every sports team in junior high and high school. Because of his intellectual disability, though, he was always given the role of team manager, helping with equipment and practices as his classmates competed.

When a teacher recommended Special Olympics, Brandon finally got the chance to get off the bench and get in the game. He's made the most of it.

Now, at age 29, he competes among the best Special Olympics and mainstream athletes in several sports. He teaches new coaches the sport of 10-pin bowling, and he speaks on behalf of Special Olympics programs.

Brandon is one of a delegation of 57 that Special Olympics Maine hopes to take to the 2014 USA Games in June in the Trenton, N.J. area. Maine is one of several states surrounding New Jersey that still need Citation owners to donate transportation to and from the Games on June 14 and June 21. The states immediately surrounding New Jersey are not eligible for the Citation Special Olympics Airlift, but states, such as Maine and West Virginia, will endure a long road trip if aircraft are not secured.

"This will be the largest delegation we've ever tried to send to a national competition. In order



to make it happen, we could really use the help of Cessna Citation and Hawker owners," said Lisa Bird, one of six staff members for the state's program that serves more than 3,800 athletes.

The alternatives for Maine are renting a bus or vans. The drive to Trenton would be long but could be done in a day. Traveling in the Airlift would mean more than saving time and money, it would be an unforgettable experience for the athletes.

"The actual experience is second to none," said Mark Capano, program director for Maine. "A couple of Citations flew our team from Portland to Iowa for the 2006 games, and it was an amazing experience, one that the athletes are still talking about. It made that kind of impression."

West Virginia is in a similar situation. The organization can save as much as \$15,000

in travel costs and give the athletes a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity if Citations or Hawkers are available. The hope is that owners from other states will join the Airlift and transport the 35-person delegation to and from West Virginia.

West Virginia participated in the 2006 Airlift and, in 2010, relied on commercial air travel, said Dave Bromiley, vice president of sports and training for Special Olympics West Virginia. A bus or vans are back-up plans this year.

"Many of our athletes come from backgrounds where they don't have access to fly at all. In fact, many of our athletes have never traveled out of the state," he said. "So getting to leave the state and fly on an airplane would be the biggest treat."



Everybody needs a lift every now and then

Get to know **Ross Aviation**



Denver AirCenter, Bradley Pacific Aviation, Miami Executive Aviation... you are likely familiar with these fixed-base operators (FBOs) but might not realize they're all owned and operated by Ross Aviation, one of Cessna's key partners for the Citation Special Olympics Airlift.

Formed by Jeff Ross and Greg Ross in 2004, Ross Aviation owns 19 FBOs in 12 states, including Ronson Aviation in Trenton, N.J., the FBO hosting Airlift aircraft transporting Special Olympics athletes to the 2014 USA Games.

Ronson Aviation is the only public aircraft service provider at Trenton Mercer Airport (TTN) and is working closely with the Airlift logistics team to support Citation and Hawker arrivals and departures carrying Special Olympics athletes and coaches.

It's safe to say it won't be business as usual at TTN.

"The logistical requirements are mind-boggling, but with Cessna's experience and support, Ronson will be ready," said Jeff Ross, president and CEO of Ross Aviation.

In fact, the entire Ross Aviation Family of FBOs is committed to the Airlift. Dozens of professionals from Ross FBOs across North America have volunteered to assist with the compressed aircraft activity during these two weekends in June. Teams are focused on securing and importing additional fuel trucks, aircraft tugs, ground service equipment, trained personnel and electric and data lines.

"The Special Olympics program is one of the most honorable and admirable endeavors of modern society, and we are extremely proud to have been invited to play an important role in ensuring the success of the [2014 USA Games]," Jeff Ross said. "There was never a notion of not pitching in to help."

Ross Aviation acquires and operates independently branded and locally managed facilities that retain their legacy names, personnel, character and unique attributes, which is why you don't see a chain of Ross Aviation FBOs spanning the country. The owners believe that local, onsite managers and their staff are in the best position to recognize, understand fulfill passenger, crew and aircraft needs, and do so with a local flavor.

Special Olympics

Special Olympics is an international organization that unleashes the human spirit through the transformative power and joy of sports every day around the world. Through work in sports, health education and community building, Special Olympics addresses inactivity, injustice, intolerance and social isolation by encouraging and empowering people with intellectual disabilities, which leads to a more welcoming and inclusive society.

Founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Special Olympics has grown from a few hundred athletes to more than 4.2 million in 170 countries. Special Olympics programs and services are offered at no cost to the athlete or their family. Training, equipment, travel, lodging and meals at games, and much more, are all provided by Special Olympics so that no one is left on the sidelines due to financial circumstances.



#CSOA14

What to expect once you register for the Airlift



It's pretty natural to be in an Olympic state of mind these days. Some of the world's best athletes gathered for the Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia, in February followed by the Winter Paralympic Games at the same location in March. And, of course, Special Olympics athletes in the United States are training for the 2014 USA Games in June.

While the athletes are preparing for competition, we are preparing to get them to the Games safely with your help via the Citation Special Olympics Airlift.

Thank you for your generosity in donating your aircraft, your crew and the fuel to fly these VIP passengers to Trenton Mercer Airport (TTN) in New Jersey on Saturday, June 14, and to pick them up there on Saturday, June 21, to take them home.

Here's what to expect as a registered participant in the Airlift:

- You should have received a letter with a Citation Special Olympics Airlift decal and a medallion for your aircraft representing each year you have participated in the Airlift.
- In late May, you will receive a package that will include all the information you need for your Airlift participation:
 - A "Dove" call sign that will help ATC expedite you through the system and

give your aircraft priority over all other air traffic on both Saturdays.

- A fuel placard that will let the marshals direct your aircraft to the fuel pit. A complete passenger manifest, schedule of aircraft departure on June 14 from the FBO with arrival time into TTN, schedule of departure on June 21 from TTN back to the FBO and contact information for your FBO.
- A special briefing on your routing to file, instructions on arriving and departing TTN and a TTN airport layout map.
- We have designed the process to allow you to drop off passengers and have a quick turn at Trenton Mercer Airport. We have ramp space limitations and expect the usual high traffic in the northeast corridor so our team has worked hard to create a safe and efficient Airlift that will provide a great environment for the athletes and our Citation and Hawker operators.
- The Pilot Hospitality Tent will have food, drinks, comprehensive weather briefing and a payment kiosk for handling all discounted fueling operations. TTN tower personnel will be on site to provide the necessary flight clearance.
- Saturday, June 21, is the designated photo day. We'll have photographers on hand to capture group shots of you with athletes, who no doubt will be proudly wearing their medals.

Thank you again to everyone who has registered. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or the team.



Rhonda Fullerton

Director, Citation
Special Olympics
Airlift



Phillips 66™ Aviation Joins 2014 Citation Special Olympics Airlift

Phillips 66™ Aviation joins the 2014 Citation Special Olympics Airlift and the efforts of volunteer pilots to transport Special Olympics athletes to the 2014 USA Games in New Jersey.

As the official fuel of the 2014 Citation Special Olympics Airlift, "[We are] excited to support this event, which delivers an extraordinary experience for these athletes, thanks to Citation and Hawker owners, pilot volunteers and Ronson Aviation, our branded dealer at Trenton-Mercer Airport (TTN)," said Greg Hart, Manager, General Aviation, Phillips 66.

"It takes an extraordinary amount of coordination to create this amazing event," Hart said, "and we're thrilled to be part of it."



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Rhonda Fullerton
Director, Citation Special Olympics Airlift
and her team at airlift@cessna.textron.com
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