

# **GAA Crew Achievement Program**

## ***Level I – Crew\****

An individual who understands the fundamentals of balloon flight, safety, etc. Requires little instruction to perform any crew assignment. Applicant will have experience in:

- inflation of pibal
- operation of inflation fan
- working mouth (not the deflation line's side) during inflation
- spreading envelope
- assisting to secure deflation panel
- laying out crown line
- steadying basket
- holding envelope bag when packing up
- helping load equipment on vehicle
- having a working knowledge of drop line use

Minimum crews: 10    *Award: "Crewing Essentials" by Gordon Schwontkowski*

## ***Level II - SENIOR CREW***

Well versed in all aspects of ballooning and capable of instruction to new crew. Applicant will meet requirements in Level 1 plus have experience in:

- having awareness and respect for landowner's rights
- unloading basket
- installing uprights, burner and instruments
- working both sides of the mouth during inflation
- monitoring deflation line during inflation
- securing deflation port
- working the crown line during inflation
- securing fan before chase
- navigating & balloon spotting in chase vehicle & Operation of radios (if used)
- participating in a drop line procedure
- turning off fuel
- disconnecting cables and removing uprights
- helping pack balloon and loading basket on vehicle
- completion of Crew Class or have working knowledge of Ground Crew Manual
- coordinate balloon recovery from balloon in flight as a passenger

Minimum crews: 30    *Award: Polo shirt with GAA monogrammed emblem*

## ***Level III - CREW CHIEF***

Would have good understanding of flight operation and excellent understanding of all ground operations, including area of liability and emergency procedures. Applicant will meet requirements for Level II, plus have:

- read pibal headings
- plotted probable course by estimating wind speed and direction

- given passengers pre-flight briefing
- inspected cables before final pilot check
- connected temperature gauge
- performed weigh off procedure
- driven and navigated in chase vehicle in two separate recoveries
- disconnected gas lines and removed burner
- assisted in refueling tanks
- crewed for three flights in an unfamiliar territory
- tied three knots used in balloon operations and capable of teaching the knots to others
- crewed for three high density (more than 25 balloons) flights
- assisted pilot in at least two drop line procedures
- participated in three tethers involving ascensions
- attended an approved Balloon Safety Seminar

Minimum crews: 75 *Award: Crew Bag with GAA monogrammed emblem and name*

### ***Level IV - MASTER CREW CHIEF***

An experienced Crew chief with exceptional knowledge. Applicant will meet requirements for Level III, plus have:

- completed a Red Cross CPR program or approved first aid course
- passed the FAA private written free balloon test
- crewed for one 3-hour flight or for one 35 mile-flight.
- crewed for six additional flights in unfamiliar territory
- demonstrated familiarity with assembly of three or more brands of balloons
- instructed one topic of interest at a GAA balloon club meeting or Safety Seminar

Minimum crews: 100 *Award: Fleece lined "hoodie" with GAA monogrammed emblem, title, and name*

### ***Validation Process***

Any individual who is a Master Crew Chief, an FAA Designated Balloon Examiner, an FAA FAST member, or a GAA-appointed Crew Award Designee is eligible to endorse an award application. Specific activities must be documented and verified by each pilot for that flight in the crew logbook. Proof of written FAA test results and attendance of continuing education programs is required. Appropriate documentation or verification of completion of the requirement for each level, along with endorsements shall be submitted with the application.

\* The GAA will provide a Crew Log book following the completion of the second reported crew activity.

### **Eligibility**

Pilots are not eligible to participate, unless they are student pilots. Experienced crew are only eligible to enter at the highest rank they have qualified for to this point. "Grandfathering" is permissible but must be accompanied with required documentation. Past awards will not be presented. All participants must be current GAA members.