



For Immediate Release

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Let Your Spirit Fly at the First in Flight Festival, Nov. 1 at Elizabeth City Regional Airport

(Elizabeth City, NC, Oct. 28, 2014) -- If you look to the skies in Elizabeth City this weekend, you may see chocolate treats falling from the wild blue yonder. The [First in Flight Festival](#) returns on Saturday, Nov. 1, featuring vintage and modern aircraft displays, free airplane rides for kids and the famous candy drop—a re-enactment of the Berlin Airlift of 1948-49.

“This is a great way to reach the next generation of pilots and aviation mechanics,” said Wayne Harris, director of the Elizabeth City|Pasquotank County Economic Development Commission (ECPCEDC), a festival supporter. “Kids will learn about the history and future of aviation, while having a lot of fun.”

Held at the [Elizabeth City Regional Airport](#) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., the First in Flight Festival was first held in 2008 as a way to introduce students to a career in the aviation industry. This year’s schedule will highlight a number of event favorites, including free airplane rides for children ages 8-17, offered by the Experimental Aircraft Association’s “Young Eagle Program”; military and civilian aircraft for viewing; a remote control air show presented by Radio Active Air Shows; and free lunch for the first 1,000 people, courtesy of McDonald’s. New this year will be the Bandit Flight Team featuring two Chinese YAKs on display and the Chrome Pony Mustang Club with antique Mustang cars for viewing.

The First in Flight Festival wouldn’t be complete without a fly-over and launch of chocolate bars from the *Spirit of Freedom*, a restored 1945 Douglas C-54. The re-enactment is based on the famous Berlin Airlift, during which Allied forces flew in food, milk and medicine to West Berlin residents. When a young Air Force pilot, Gail Halvorsen, noticed children gathering outside the Tempelhof Air Base, he began dropping chocolates to them on return trips and soon became famous throughout the world as the “Candy Bomber” and the “Chocolate Flier.”

Halvorsen, a retired U.S. Air Force Colonel, has re-enacted his “Candy Bomber” role at the festival for many years as part of the [Berlin Airlift Historical Foundation](#)’s mission to preserve the airlift legacy. Although the Colonel isn’t available to attend this year’s event, festival-goers

can tour the *Spirit of Freedom's* flying museum and kids can make a mad dash for candy during the chocolate drop.

The festival is organized by the Elizabeth City Regional Airport, with assistance from the following Elizabeth City sponsors: Vector CSP, TCOM, L.P., EPCEDC, Telephonics, Shell Aviation, McDonald's and Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company. All events take place on airport grounds within sight of Air Station Elizabeth City, home to one of the largest Coast Guard Air Station in the continental United States, and the neighboring Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Aviation Research and Development Commerce Park. For a schedule and details, visit www.ecfirstinflight.com.

The Elizabeth City | Pasquotank County Economic Development Commission

The Elizabeth City | Pasquotank County EDC markets business opportunities in the City of Elizabeth City and Pasquotank County to prospective employers throughout the United States. It's location in the center of northeastern North Carolina makes the area ideally suited for business development, expansion and relocation. For information go to www.elizabethcitypasquotankEDC.com or call 1-888-338-1678 or (252) 338-0169.