



For Immediate Release

**SKYSTAR OBSERVATION WHEEL TO OFFICIALLY OPEN OCT. 21  
MUSIC CONCOURSE, GOLDEN GATE PARK  
SPECIAL DISCOUNT TICKETS FOR OPENING WEEK NOW ON SALE**

Reserve Tickets at [www.skystarwheel.com](http://www.skystarwheel.com)



SAN FRANCISCO (October 12, 2020) — In celebration of Golden Gate Park’s 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the long-awaited SkyStar Observation Wheel will open for business and begin to offer rides starting Oct. 21, the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department and SkyStar announced today.

Standing 150 feet in the Music Concourse, the state-of-the-art SkyStar Observation Wheel features 36 enclosed temperature-controlled gondolas, boasting unparalleled views from downtown San Francisco to the Pacific Ocean. Health and safety modifications to prevent the spread of COVID-19 will be maintained including thorough sanitizing of all gondolas between each use; a limit of one household per gondola; social distancing in queues; onsite handwashing; and temperature testing for staff.

“Golden Gate Park is a San Francisco treasure and has been a respite for so many of our residents during COVID-19,” said **Mayor of San Francisco, London N. Breed**. “The Observation Wheel will give San Franciscans a fun, new way to appreciate the beauty of our City during this 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. We’ve had to adapt many of our community events and celebrations this year, but the fact that we can now safely open the Observation Wheel is a tribute to the resilience of our city and provides some much-needed hope for our residents.”

Beginning opening day, Wednesday, Oct. 21 through Sunday, Oct. 25, all tickets are specially priced at \$10 per person. Starting Oct. 26, tickets will be priced at \$18 for adults and \$12 for seniors (65+) and children (12 and under). A VIP ride experience in a specially designed gondola, offering a longer ride and more amenities, is available at \$50 per person. All tickets must be reserved at [www.skystarwheel.com](http://www.skystarwheel.com).

Each ride provides four complete rotations and is 12 minutes in duration. Colorful LED lights will illuminate the towering Observation Wheel nightly. The Wheel evokes Golden Gate Park's past, when the 120-foot tall "Firth Wheel" dazzled visitors to the California Midwinter Fair of 1894.

The Observation Wheel was installed in the Music Concourse earlier this year in March, but has never been ridden due to the health emergency.

"Parks have never been more essential to our health and wellbeing, and Golden Gate Park in particular has never been more beautiful or beloved. For visitors, the Observation Wheel has become a symbol of that appreciation and our hope for returning to brighter times," said **San Francisco Recreation and Park General Manager Phil Ginsburg**.

**SkyView Partners Managing Partner Todd Schneider**, commented "It has been my goal to present to the San Francisco public the opportunity to enjoy the SkyStar Observation Wheel and at long last, I'm very pleased to announce with the City, our official grand opening slated for October 21. It's a great honor for us to be located in the iconic Golden Gate Park and to be a part of this historic 150<sup>th</sup> celebration while adding to the City's vibrant community. I also want to assure the public of our strict adherence to COVID-19 health and wellness protocols in order to ensure a safe and comfortable ride experience."

The SkyStar Observation Wheel was previously installed in Cincinnati, Ohio; Louisville, Kentucky; and Norfolk, Virginia. A SkyStar Observation Wheel is currently open to the public in Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park.

Based in St. Louis, SkyView Partners LLC, pioneered the stand-alone observation wheel concept in America when they developed the stationary wheel in 2010 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. SkyView Partners continue to be an industry leader with their unveiling of SkyStar.

The Observation Wheel is located in the Music Concourse at Bowl Drive, the outdoor plaza near the de Young Museum, the California Academy of Sciences, and the Japanese Tea Garden. Public parking is available in the adjacent Music Concourse Garage.

All reservations to ride the Wheel must be made in advance and are available at designated times for each day. Public operational hours are Monday through Friday, 12 Noon to 10 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. For ticket reservations, visit [www.skystarwheel.com](http://www.skystarwheel.com).

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