



All-Female Highlight Pro Skydiving Team to Soar Through New York City to Commemorate the Centennial Anniversary of Women’s Right to Vote

No spectators allowed on-site but encouraged to watch the action LIVE from Highlight’s Facebook page

NEW YORK CITY (Aug. 20, 2020) – On **Wednesday, Aug. 26 at 8 a.m. EST**, the [Highlight Pro Skydiving Team](#), an all-female skydiving team focused on highlighting women’s rights initiatives, will perform a spectacular aerial display across New York City to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which secured women’s right to vote.

The jump is being held at an undisclosed location to prevent public attendance given COVID-19 restrictions. Spectators are encouraged to watch the live event via the [Highlight Pro Skydiving Team Facebook page](#).

The action will begin from 4,500 feet in the sky as members of the Highlight team will swoop across the city with brightly colored smoke and streamers in suffragist colors of purple, white and yellow (representing loyalty, purity and hope), as well as fly giant flags displaying women’s suffrage themes of “Equality Can’t Wait,” “Votes for Women,” “Shall Not be Denied” and more.

New York City’s roots in the women’s rights movement attracted the Highlight team to this event. The jumps will pay special tribute to [Woodlawn Cemetery](#), where suffragists Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Carrie Chapman Catt are laid to rest, and also to [Monumental Women](#), a nonprofit organization set to unveil its Women’s Rights Pioneers Monument in Central Park honoring suffragists Sojourner Truth, Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. It will be the first statue depicting real women in the park.

“This is such a significant moment in history that, even with all the challenges in our current world, we wanted to find a way to safely and boldly honor the women who made it possible,” said Melanie Curtis, professional skydiver and co-founder of the Highlight Pro Skydiving Team. “We are using skydiving to capture attention, and we hope that attention turns to the social justice initiatives of today, women’s rights, gender equality and equality at large. Use your voice and your vote, that’s what we want.”

The event is in partnership with the [Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commission](#), an organization formed in 2017 when Congress passed legislation to create the commission to “ensure a suitable observance of

the centennial of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States providing women's suffrage." Buildings and landmarks across the country will light up in purple and gold on Aug. 26 as part of the Commission's nationwide Forward Into Light Campaign, named in honor of the historic suffrage slogan.

"We are proud to partner with the daring women of the Highlight Pro Skydiving Team in celebrating 100 years of the 19th Amendment," said Susan Combs, Chair of the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission. "Through this demonstration in New York City, along with the previous jumps around the country in 2020, this all-women skydiving team reminds us that the sky is the limit!"

New York City is part of a series of Highlight jumps at events around the country, which were developed to honor the centennial anniversary throughout the summer. Their journey began in Seneca Falls, New York (the birthplace of the women's rights movement), with stops in Nashville, Tennessee (the final state to ratify the 19th Amendment) and Valley Forge, Pennsylvania (home of the Justice Bell, created to promote the cause for women's suffrage). Highlight's New York jump and Monumental Women's unveiling of the statue are being regarded as "kick offs" to the celebration of the 19th Amendment across the country for the entire next year.

The event is not open to the public due to local gathering restrictions, but spectators are encouraged to tune into the virtual event via the [Highlight Pro Skydiving Team Facebook page](#) on **Wednesday, Aug. 26 at 8 a.m. EST**. Viewers can expect to feel the excitement as the women swoop through the sky with grand, vibrant displays of smoke, streamers and banners as they descend to the landing zone. The live event will rival the live-spectator experience with expert commentary, beautiful videography and supplemental footage that will share important messages of women's strength, determination and fight to secure suffrage.

For more information about the Highlight Pro Skydiving Team, visit www.highlightskydiving.com or follow along on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

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[About Highlight Pro Skydiving Team](#)

The Highlight Pro Skydiving Team, named for using their high-flying talents to highlight and amplify important messages, is an all-female team of 11 highly skilled skydivers cofounded by professional skydivers Melanie Curtis and Amy Chmelecki. All team members hold the [United States Parachute Association \(USPA\) PRO Rating](#), meaning they can safely fly and land in challenging areas and in close proximity to spectators. The inspiration for the Highlight team began after learning about the tenacious women who led the women's suffrage movement 100 years ago that secured women's right to vote in America. The idea was to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the 19th Amendment in a way no one could ignore or soon forget. The Highlight team mission is to inspire all women to live bold, brave lives of their own design in skydiving and beyond.

[About Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission](#)

The Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission was created to honor the 100th anniversary of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment and will celebrate this significant milestone by supporting projects and initiatives across the country. The 19th Amendment, which was ratified on August 18th, 1920, prohibits states and the federal government from denying women the right to vote.

[About Monumental Women](#)

Monumental Women has the goal of increasing awareness and appreciation of Women's History through a nationwide education campaign and challenging municipalities across the country to rethink the past and reshape the future by including tributes in their public spaces to the diverse women who helped create and inspire those cities. The organization was officially created as an all-volunteer, not-for-profit organization in 2014 with the goal of breaking the bronze ceiling and creating the first statue of real women in Central Park's 167-year history.

[About Woodlawn Conservancy](#)

The Woodlawn Conservancy provides educational programs for students and the public, engaging a strong volunteer corps and working to present the extraordinary collection of monuments and plantings found on the 400-acre site of The Woodlawn Cemetery. The Woodlawn Cemetery is the final resting place of many individuals who have made lasting contributions to American history. It is the work of the Conservancy that preserves the legacies of these notables including Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Madam C.J. Walker, Alva Belmont and Carrie Chapman Catt. This mission is accomplished through the support of individuals and organizations who desire to preserve Woodlawn's beauty and history for the enjoyment of future generations. The Woodlawn Conservancy is enhancing its community and investing in the future by preserving the past. Founded in 1863 in the Bronx, The Woodlawn Cemetery, still an active cemetery with new ongoing development, is one of the largest cemeteries in New York City and is designated a National Historic Landmark. Woodlawn...More Than A Cemetery. For more information, please visit www.Woodlawn.org.