ILLUMINATE DRONES

Indoor Drone Light Show: Venue Planning Guide

For venue managers, event planners and production teams. Updated November 2026.

The short version

An indoor drone light show is a fleet of small, lit drones flying inside your venue in front of your guests. The drones form logos, words and shapes, set to music you choose. Shows run four to seven minutes, and we recommend five at most for audience attention.

Indoor flight is outside FAA jurisdiction, so there is no waiver to file and no airspace authorization to wait on. The approval that matters is the venue's, and this guide covers what a venue team usually asks first.

What we need from your venue

- A floor plan or a 3D model of the space. OBJ or STL files work best, because we import them into our design software and plan the show against the real dimensions before we arrive.
- A clear takeoff area and a controlled flight area that only authorized crew can enter while the drones are flying.
- A contact on your safety or operations team to review our safety document.
- Space that fits the show. As a guide, a show of about 40 drones takes about 25 by 25 feet with 15 to 25 foot ceilings, and we have flown larger shows under 12 foot ceilings. Ballrooms, convention halls, theaters, field houses and arenas almost always work.

Timeline

- Design: we prefer at least four weeks to design the show. We can work with less time under certain circumstances.
- Rehearsal: when the venue matches the measurements we were given, our first rehearsal takes about 20 minutes. If something needs to change, adjustments usually take about an hour, and then we test fly again.
- Setup: generally one to two minutes once the equipment is in place. On a touring show we ran two shows a night with two and a half minutes to set up and one minute to clear the stage.

Safety

- Each of our indoor drones weighs 190 grams and has full propeller guards.
- Speed is capped at about 4.5 miles per hour.
- The drones fly inside a software boundary they cannot cross.
- Operators can land any drone, or the whole show, at any moment, and every drone has an emergency stop.
- Everyone who works a show completes hands-on training in our safety procedures first.
- Our pilots are Part 107 certified, which is not required for indoor flight, and each has hundreds of flight hours.
- We send our complete safety document to your venue's team on request.

Working with lighting, haze and other effects

Keep haze light around the drones at takeoff, because their sensors are active then. After takeoff, more haze and other lighting can be added, although the drones move a lot of air and most haze will blow away.

Venues that have approved our system

We have gone through venue approval many times. Venues that have approved our indoor drone show system include:

American Airlines Center, Dallas
Ball Arena, Denver
Capital One Arena, Washington, DC
Climate Pledge Arena, Seattle
Delta Center, Salt Lake City
Fiserv Forum, Milwaukee
Giant Center, Hershey
Golden 1 Center, Sacramento
Kia Center, Orlando
Little Caesars Arena, Detroit

- Moda Center, Portland
- Moody Center, Austin
- Nationwide Arena, Columbus
- PPG Paints Arena, Pittsburgh
- SAP Center, San Jose
- Scotiabank Arena, Toronto
- TD Garden, Boston
- Toyota Center, Houston
- Wells Fargo Center, Philadelphia
- And many more

Cost

Most indoor drone shows run between $25,000 and $30,000. A quote covers the show design, custom content built for your brand, the crew who program and fly it, on-site setup and teardown, and the safety planning. Price moves with the number of drones, the venue and location, travel and demand for your date.

Questions to ask any indoor drone show company

- Which venues like mine have approved your system?
- Can I see your safety plan in writing?
- How do you design the show against my venue's real dimensions?
- What do you need from my venue, and how much setup time?
- How is the crew trained, and who can stop the show?

> **Send us your venue and your date, and we'll tell you straight whether it fits before you commit to anything.**
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Illuminate Drones, LLC, Springville, Utah. Indoor and outdoor drone light shows. This guide is for planning purposes, and every show is designed for its own venue.