

## UPCOMING CONVENTION AND SPORTS EVENTS

*February 2019*

### **2019 OVR Marathon Girls and Boys WinterFest Tournaments | Feb. 2-3**

The Ohio Valley Region will host its annual Girls and Boys Winterfest Tournaments at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. As a member of USA Volleyball, the sport's governing body, the OVR provides opportunities for members to participate at local, regional, zonal, and national competitions.

- Attendance:** 4,800
- Meals:** Attendees are on their own for meals.
- Location:** Greater Columbus Convention Center
- Website:** [www.ovr.org](http://www.ovr.org)
- Facebook:** [OVR](https://www.facebook.com/OVR)
- Twitter:** [@OVRegion](https://twitter.com/OVRegion)
- Group Contact:** Ron Wyzynski, [rwyzynski@neo.rr.com](mailto:rwyzynski@neo.rr.com)
- Sports Commission Contact:** Erica Cornell, [ecornell@columbusports.org](mailto:ecornell@columbusports.org)

### **Athletic Championships | Feb. 2-3** ***All Star Cheer and Dance Competition***

More than 4,000 athletes will compete for national titles. Participants range in age from pre-school through college. Many participants will arrive Friday afternoon. Competition takes place Saturday and Sunday.

- Attendance:** 10,000 (competitors and spectators)
- Meals:** Attendees are on their own for all meals.
- Location:** Greater Columbus Convention Center, Downtown and Columbus area hotels
- Website:** [www.athleticchampionships.com](http://www.athleticchampionships.com)
- Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/AthleticChampionships>
- Twitter:** [@athleticchamp](https://twitter.com/athleticchamp)
- Experience Columbus Contact:** Diane Share, [dshare@experiencecolumbus.com](mailto:dshare@experiencecolumbus.com)



## **2019 USA Volleyball Girls' 18s National Qualifier | Feb. 8-10**

USA Volleyball and the Ohio Valley Region (OVR) will host one of 16 qualifiers held across the country for high school's top female volleyball players, where close to 80 teams will compete on 12 courts over a weekend in the Greater Columbus Convention Center. The qualifier is one of many high-profile volleyball events being held in Columbus in 2019.

- Attendance:** 800
- Meals:** Attendees are on their own for meals
- Location:** Greater Columbus Convention Center
- Website:** <http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Volleyball>
- Facebook:** [USA Volleyball](#)
- Twitter:** [@USAVolleyball](#)
- Group Contact:** Al Herbert, [herbert@uakron.edu](mailto:herbert@uakron.edu)
- Sports Commission Contact:** Ariana Tyler, [at Tyler@columbusports.org](mailto:at Tyler@columbusports.org)

## **2019 OHSFCA – Under Armour Football Clinic | Feb. 7-9**

Various football coaches from around the country will share their success stories and give helpful tips and advice to all in attendance on the art of coaching football.

- Attendance:** 2,500
- Meals:** Attendees are on their own for meals
- Location:** Hilton Columbus at Easton
- Website:** [www.ohsfca.net/ClubSpotlight.aspx?clubId=55521&](http://www.ohsfca.net/ClubSpotlight.aspx?clubId=55521&)
- Facebook:** [Ohio high School Football Coaches Association](#)
- Twitter:** [@ohsfca](#)
- Group Contact:** Gerald Cooke, [geraldcooke@hotmail.com](mailto:geraldcooke@hotmail.com)
- Sports Commission Contact:** Erica Cornell, [ecornell@columbusports.org](mailto:ecornell@columbusports.org)



## **AMERICHEER | Feb. 9** ***Winter National***

This championship competition is open to all ages and skill levels. The winning team receives a paid bid to the Final Destination championships.

**Attendance:** More than 5,000 attendees, including families. Open to the public.

**Meals:** Attendees are on their own for meals.

**Location:** Greater Columbus Convention Center

**Website:** <http://www.americheer.com/>

**Twitter:** [@AmeriCheer87](https://twitter.com/AmeriCheer87)

**Group Contact:** Kelsie Shoemaker, [kshoemaker@americheer.com](mailto:kshoemaker@americheer.com)

**Experience Columbus Contact:** Sharon Levine, [slevine@experiencecolumbus.com](mailto:slevine@experiencecolumbus.com)

## **Reading Recovery Council Of North America | Feb. 9-12** ***National Reading Recovery & K-6 Classroom Literacy Conference***

Elementary school teachers and administrators from across the country will attend educational seminars and a tradeshow to learn about the Reading Recovery system to help first graders learn to read. Shuttles to Polaris Fashion Place will be provided Monday night. The conference ends at noon on Tuesday.

**Attendance:** 2,500

**Meals:** Lunch is provided Sunday and Monday, but attendees are on their own for dinner.

**Exhibits:** 75 booths; not open to the public

**Location:** Greater Columbus Convention Center, downtown hotels

**Website:** <http://www.readingrecovery.org/>

**Contacts:** Anita Gibson, [agibson@readingrecovery.org](mailto:agibson@readingrecovery.org)

**Experience Columbus Contact:** Bill Behrens, [bbehrens@experiencecolumbus.com](mailto:bbehrens@experiencecolumbus.com)

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## **OHSAA Boys State Wrestling Team Championships | Feb. 10**

The best high school wrestling teams from around the state will collide in Columbus to crown teams from three divisions as the state champions of the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

- Attendance:** 4,000
- Meals:** Attendees are on their own for meals.
- Location:** St. John Arena, Ohio State University
- Website:** [www.ohsaa.org/sports/wr/boys/default.asp](http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/wr/boys/default.asp)
- Facebook:** [OHSAA](https://www.facebook.com/OHSAA)
- Twitter:** [@OHSAASports](https://twitter.com/OHSAASports)
- Group Contact:** Tyler Brooks, [tbrooks@ohsaa.org](mailto:tbrooks@ohsaa.org)
- Sports Commission Contact:** Erica Cornell, [ecornell@columbusports.org](mailto:ecornell@columbusports.org)

## **OETC | Feb. 12-14** ***Ohio Educational Technology Conference***

Ohio's largest annual state educational technology conference where technology professionals and enthusiasts come together to explore the forefront of P-20 learning and innovation in Ohio.

- Attendance:** 4,000
- Meals:** Attendees are on their own for all meals.
- Exhibits:** 240+ exhibiting companies. Registration required.
- Location:** Greater Columbus Convention Center, downtown hotels
- Website:** [www.oetc.ohio.gov](http://www.oetc.ohio.gov)
- Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/ohioetc](https://www.facebook.com/ohioetc)
- Twitter:** [@OhioEdTech](https://twitter.com/OhioEdTech)
- Group Contact:** [info@oetc.ohio.gov](mailto:info@oetc.ohio.gov)
- Experience Columbus Contact:** Diane Share, [dshare@experiencecolumbus.com](mailto:dshare@experiencecolumbus.com)
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## **2019 PBA Players Championship | Feb. 12-17**

Members of the Professional Bowlers Association from all over the country will travel to Columbus to compete in the Players Championship for bragging rights and a cash prize.

- Attendance:** 3,700
- Meals:** Attendees are on their own for meals.
- Location:** Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl
- Website:** [www.pba.com/Tournaments/Details/2762](http://www.pba.com/Tournaments/Details/2762)
- Facebook:** [Professional Bowlers Association](#)
- Twitter:** [@PBATour](#)
- Group Contact:** Elaine Webb, [elaine@bowlcolumbus.com](mailto:elaine@bowlcolumbus.com)
- Sports Commission Contact:** Ariana Tyler, [atyler@columbusports.org](mailto:atyler@columbusports.org)

## **Presidents' Cup Volleyball Tournament | Feb. 16-17**

The Presidents' Cup is recognized as one of the most prestigious youth Junior Olympics Volleyball tournaments in the country attracting over 400 teams from around the United States and Canada annually. The event is a staple tournament for more than 100 college coaches for recruiting.

- Attendance:** 6,000
- Meals:** Attendees are on their own for meals.
- Location:** Greater Columbus Convention Center
- Website:** [www.presidentsdaycupvb.com/](http://www.presidentsdaycupvb.com/)
- Facebook:** [OVR](#)
- Twitter:** [@OVRegion](#)
- Group Contact:** Chuck Braden, [CJB579@NKTelco.net](mailto:CJB579@NKTelco.net)
- Sports Commission Contact:** Erica Cornell, [ecornell@columbusports.org](mailto:ecornell@columbusports.org)
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## **National Association for Campus Activities | Feb. 16-20**

### ***National Convention: #NACA19***

The National Association for Campus Activities is the recognized leader in higher education providing knowledge, ideas and resources for campus life. Student affairs professionals and campus programmers attend this annual event for professional development, networking and educational opportunities. The #NACA19 convention features 75+ educational sessions on the latest trends in campus activities and 100+ showcases from the best talent in the campus market.

**Attendance:** 2,500

**Meals:** Attendees are on their own for all meals, with meal breaks averaging about two hours. Attendees will be looking for quick and low-cost options, and they may be in larger groups. Expect higher traffic after 10 p.m. on Sunday and Monday.

**Exhibits:** This is a ticketed event.

**Location:** Greater Columbus Convention Center, Downtown Hotels

**Website:** <https://www.naca.org>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/TheNACA>

**Twitter:** [@THENACA](https://twitter.com/THENACA)

**Experience Columbus Contact:** Diane Share, [dshare@experiencecolumbus.com](mailto:dshare@experiencecolumbus.com)

## **Ohio Veterinary Association | Feb. 21-24**

### ***Midwest Veterinary Conference***

Veterinarians and veterinarian students from across the Midwest will come to Columbus for education, networking and to visit the exhibit hall.

**Attendance:** 6,000

**Meals:** Most attendees are on their own for meals.

**Exhibits:** 200 companies; not open to the public.

**Location:** Greater Columbus Convention Center, downtown hotels

**Website:** [www.mvcinfo.org](http://www.mvcinfo.org)

**Twitter:** [@MVCinfo](https://twitter.com/MVCinfo)

**Contacts:** Carmel Martin, [crm@ohiovma.org](mailto:crm@ohiovma.org)

**Experience Columbus Contact:** Bill Behrens, [bbehrens@experiencecolumbus.com](mailto:bbehrens@experiencecolumbus.com)

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## **Cheerleaders Of America | Feb. 23-24** ***Midwest Open***

Specialty cheer teams, recreation squads and all-star teams will compete at this cheer event. Winning teams will qualify for the 2018 Cheerleading Worlds.

- Attendance:** More than 5,000 attendees, including families. Open to the public.
- Meals:** Attendees are on their own for meals.
- Location:** Greater Columbus Convention Center
- Website:** <http://www.coacheeranddance.com/>
- Twitter:** [@coacheerdance](https://twitter.com/coacheerdance)
- Group Contact:** LeAnne Humphrey, [lhumphrey@teamtravelsource.com](mailto:lhumphrey@teamtravelsource.com)
- Experience Columbus Contact:** Sharon Levine, [slevine@experiencecolumbus.com](mailto:slevine@experiencecolumbus.com)

## **Arnold Sports Festival | Feb. 28-March 3**

This is the 31<sup>st</sup> year of the Arnold Sports Festival, the largest multi-sport event in the nation. The festival brings athletes, fitness fans and health-fitness businesses to Columbus. More than 22,000 athletes come to Columbus to compete in more than 80 sports and events. Daily EXPO tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. A 3-ticket package is also available for \$50 online.

- Attendance:** 200,000
- Meals:** Attendees are on their own for meals.
- Location:** Greater Columbus Convention Center, Hyatt Regency, Express Live, Ohio Expo Center, Hilton Columbus Downtown, Ohio State University, New Albany High School, Premier at Sawmill, Sheraton Capitol Square
- Website:** <http://arnoldsportsfestival.com/>
- Facebook:** [Arnold Sports Festival](https://www.facebook.com/ArnoldSportsFestival)
- Twitter:** [@ArnoldSports](https://twitter.com/ArnoldSports)
- Group Contact:** Brent Lalonde, [brent@arnoldexpo.com](mailto:brent@arnoldexpo.com); Liz Green, [liz@arnoldexpo.com](mailto:liz@arnoldexpo.com)
- Sports Commission Contact:** Eric Archibald, [earchibald@columbusports.org](mailto:earchibald@columbusports.org); Ariana Tyler, [atyler@columbusports.org](mailto:atyler@columbusports.org)
- Experience Columbus Contact:** Sharon Levine, [slevine@experiencecolumbus.com](mailto:slevine@experiencecolumbus.com)



The **Experience Columbus Visitor Centers** in the Arena District and at the Greater Columbus Convention Center are here to help your customers find their way around the city. Arena District hours are Monday-Friday, 8am-5 pm, Saturday, 10am–4pm and Sunday 12pm– 5pm. The Visitor Center is located on the corner of Nationwide Blvd. and Neil Ave. at 277 W. Nationwide Blvd., 43215. Phone: 614-221-6623. The Convention Center Visitor Center hours are Monday-Friday, 9am– 5pm, Saturday 10am– 4pm, and Sunday 12pm–5pm.

The Convention and Sports Alert is published monthly to assist area restaurants, hotels and other facilities in anticipating their staffing and supply needs. To add, change or delete an email recipient, please contact Bill Behrens at [BBehrens@ExperienceColumbus.com](mailto:BBehrens@ExperienceColumbus.com).

