

UPCOMING CONVENTION AND SPORTS EVENTS

March 2019

Arnold Sports Festival | Feb. 28-March 3

This is the 31st 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](#)

Twitter: [@ArnoldSports](#)

Group Contact: Brent Lalonde, brent@arnoldexpo.com; Liz Green, liz@arnoldexpo.com

Sports Commission Contact: Eric Archibald, earchibald@columbusports.org;
Ariana Tyler, at Tyler@columbusports.org

Experience Columbus Contact: Sharon Levine, slevine@experiencecolumbus.com

OHSAA State Gymnastics Championships | March 1-2

The OHSAA State Gymnastics Championships will take place at Hilliard Bradley High School on March 1-2. Teams will compete on March 1st and individuals will compete on March 2nd.

Attendance: 2,000

Meals: Attendees are on their own for meals.

Location: Hilliard Bradley High School

Website: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/gymnastics>

Facebook: [Ohio High School Athletic Association](#)

Twitter: [@OHSAASports](#)

Group Contact: Deborah Moore, dmoore@ohsaa.org

Sports Commission Contact: Erica Cornell, ecornell@columbusports.org



OHSAA State Bowling Championships | March 1-9

Division I and II bowling teams will compete in Columbus at the OHSAA State Bowling Championships. Division II will compete on March 1-2. Division I will compete on March 8-9.

Attendance: 2,000

Meals: Attendees are on their own for meals.

Location: Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl

Website: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/bowling>

Facebook: [Ohio High School Athletic Association](#)

Twitter: [@OHSAASports](#)

Group Contact: Roxanne Price, rprice@ohsaa.org

Sports Commission Contact: Erica Cornell, ecornell@columbusports.org

Ohio Safety Congress & Expo | March 6-8

Ohio's largest occupational safety and health event offers workshops and exhibits to help prevent workplace injuries and promote a healthy workforce.

Attendance: 7,500

Meals: Attendees are on their own for meals.

Event: 300 exhibitors. Open to the public. Wed. 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Thurs., 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Location: Greater Columbus Convention Center, downtown hotels

Website: <http://www.ohiobwc.com>, www.ohiosafetycongress.com

Twitter: [@OhioBWC](#) #OSC19

Group Contact: Julie Darby Martin, Julie.D.12@bwc.state.oh.us

Experience Columbus Contact: Diane Share, dshare@experiencecolumbus.com

OHSAA State Ice Hockey Championships | March 8-9

The Ohio High School Ice Hockey season will conclude with the final four teams meeting in Columbus at Nationwide Arena. Semifinal games will be played on Friday, March 8th at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and the championship will be played on Saturday, March 9th.

Attendance: 6,500

Meals: Attendees are on their own for meals.

Location: Nationwide Arena

Website: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/icehockey>

Facebook: [Ohio High School Athletic Association](#)

Twitter: [@OHSAASports](#)

Group Contact: Steve Neil, sneil@ohsaa.org

Sports Commission Contact: Erica Cornell, ecornell@columbusports.org

OHSAA State Boys Wrestling Individual Championships | March 8-10

Wrestlers will compete in the Ohio High School Athletic Association State Wrestling Individual Championships at the Schottenstein Center.

Attendance: 65,000

Meals: Attendees are on their own for meals.

Location: Jerome Schottenstein Center

Website: <https://ohsaa.org/sports/wrestling>

Facebook: [Ohio High School Athletic Association](#)

Twitter: [@OHSAASports](#)

Group Contact: Tyler Brooks, tbrooks@ohsaa.org

Sports Commission Contact: Erica Cornell, ecornell@columbusports.org

OHSAA State Girls Basketball Championships | March 14-16

Columbus' Schottenstein Center will host the State Girls Basketball Championships presented by the Ohio High School Athletic Association. The semifinals will take place on Thursday, March 14th and Friday, March 15th followed by the finals on Saturday, March 16th.

- Attendance:** 14,000
- Meals:** Attendees are on their own for meals.
- Location:** Jerome Schottenstein Center
- Website:** <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/girlsbasketball>
- Facebook:** [Ohio High School Athletic Association](#)
- Twitter:** [@OHSAASports](#)
- Group Contact:** Jerry Snodgrass, jsnodgrass@ohsaa.org
- Sports Commission Contact:** Erica Cornell, ecornell@columbusports.org

2019 Great Lakes YMCA Zone Meet | March 15-17

This YMCA sanctioned event will host some of the best swimmers from across the Midwest to compete for medals and ribbons in various swimming events.

- Attendance:** 4,000
- Meals:** Attendees are on their own for meals.
- Location:** McCorkle Aquatic Pavilion
- Website:** <https://www.teamunify.com/Home.jsp?team=ymcaglyz>
- Facebook:** [YMCA](#)
- Twitter:** [@ymca](#)
- Group Contact:** Noelle Tolbert, noellemt@yahoo.com
- Sports Commission Contact:** Ariana Tyler, ATyler@ColumbusSports.org

OHSAA State Boys Basketball Championships | March 21-23

The best 16 boys' basketball teams in the state will come to Columbus for the Boys Basketball Championships to close out the 2018-19 Ohio High School Athletic Association season. Semifinals will be played Thursday and Friday while Championship finals will be played Saturday.

- Attendance:** 14,000
- Meals:** Attendees are on their own for meals.
- Location:** Jerome Schottenstein Center
- Website:** <https://ohsaa.org/sports/boysbasketball>
- Facebook:** [Ohio High School Athletic Association](#)

Twitter: [@OHSAASports](https://twitter.com/OHSAASports)
Group Contact: Jerry Snodgrass, jsnodgrass@ohsaa.org
Sports Commission Contact: Erica Cornell, ecornell@columbusports.org

2019 Division I Men's Basketball 1st & 2nd Rounds | March 21-23

March Madness will kick off in Columbus at Nationwide Arena to begin the Road to the Final Four. The best teams in the country will clash to claim the glory of being a NCAA Champion.

Attendance: 20,000
Meals: Attendees are on their own for meals.
Location: Nationwide Arena
Website: <https://www.ncaa.com/news/basketball-men/march-madness-dates-tournament-schedule>
Facebook: [NCAA March Madness](https://www.facebook.com/NCAAMarchMadness)
Twitter: [@marchmadness](https://twitter.com/marchmadness)
Group Contact: Danny Haynor, dhaynor@ncaa.org
Sports Commission Contact: Eric Archibald, EArchibald@ColumbusSports.org

Organization of American Kodaly Educators (OAKE) | March 21-24 ***National Conference***

The OAKE National Conference is the highlight of the year for active Professional members of OAKE. Attendees will learn from distinguished and diverse national and international presenters, hear the latest research in music education and how it relates to current standards, observe live teaching demonstrations and experience daily musical performances, including the OAKE National Honor Choir Concert – made up of 450 students from across the country.

Attendance: 350 teachers, 450 students
Meals: Attendees are on their own for dinner with events starting at 7 p.m. on Thursday and Saturday, and 8:30 p.m. on Friday. Conference ends at noon on Sunday.
Exhibits: 30 tables
Location: Hyatt Regency, downtown hotels
Website: <https://www.oake.org/>
Contacts: Nancy Johnson, nancy@oake.org
Experience Columbus Contact: Bill Behrens, bbehrens@experiencecolumbus.com

2019 NCAA Division II Women's Basketball Championship | March 26-29

The best eight Division II Women's Basketball teams will collide in Columbus to determine the champion. The quarterfinals will take place on March 26th, the semifinals will take place on March 27th, and the championship will take place on March 29th.

- Attendance:** 1,200
- Meals:** Attendees are on their own for meals.
- Location:** Alumni Hall, Ohio Dominican University
- Website:** <https://www.ncaa.com/brackets/basketball-women/d2/2019>
- Facebook:** [NCAA Division II](#)
- Twitter:** [@NCAADII](#)
- Group Contact:** Kelsey Cermak Jones, kjones@ncaa.org
- Sports Commission Contact:** Eric Archibald, EArchibald@ColumbusSports.org

American Academy of Audiology| March 27-30

2019 AudiologyNOW!

AAA 2019, the Academy's annual conference and exposition, is the world's largest gathering of audiologists. This annual meeting provides participants the opportunity to attend four days of educational sessions, explore the latest in hearing technology, and network with colleagues from around the world.

- Attendance:** 4,000
- Meals:** Attendees are on their own for meals.
- Location:** Greater Columbus Convention Center, downtown hotels
- Website:** www.audiology.org
- Group Contact:** Kim Mydland, kmydland@audiology.org
- Experience Columbus Contact:** Sharon Levine, slevine@experiencecolumbus.com

2019 Collegiate Club Swimming & Diving National Championships | March 29-31

Columbus and the McCorkle Aquatic Pavilion will host the best Collegiate Club Swimming & Diving teams across the country to compete for a national title.

- Attendance:** 3,000
- Meals:** Attendees are on their own for meals.
- Location:** McCorkle Aquatic Pavilion
- Website:** <https://www.collegeclubswimming.com/page.cfm?pagetitle=2019+National+Championship>
- Facebook:** [College Club Swimming National Championship](#)



Group Contact: Kyle Deery, kdeery@usms.org

Sports Commission Contact: Ariana Tyler, ATyler@ColumbusSports.org

2019 Mojo Moneyball | March 29-31

Softball teams from across the country will compete in a weekend-long tournament for a grand cash prize.

Attendance: 1,000

Meals: Attendees are on their own for meals.

Location: Lou Berliner Sports Park

Website: http://gslsports.com/gslslowpitch/event_home/?eventID=305981

Facebook: [2019 GSL Mojo Moneyball Madness "Super Dual" Sponsored by: Easton](#)

Group Contact: Cliff Manji, cmanji@gslsports.com

Sports Commission Contact: Erica Cornell, ECornell@ColumbusSports.org

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.

