

# EXPERIENCE COLUMBUS



This alert contains information on the conventions and sporting events that will be arriving in April and May. We hope you find this information useful for scheduling and to help welcome attendees.

## April Events

### Ohio Pharmacists Association Annual Conference & Trade Show | April 5–7

Pharmacists must interact with other healthcare professionals on One Team, with One Voice and One Vision to improve patient outcomes. The 2024 OPA Annual Conference is a great opportunity for pharmacists and student pharmacists to update their knowledge and resources to help them achieve professional satisfaction.

Attendance:	1,100
Meals:	Most meals are provided for attendees.
Location:	Hilton Columbus at Easton
Website:	<a href="https://ohiopharmacists.org">ohiopharmacists.org</a>
Facebook:	<a href="https://facebook.com/Ohio.Pharmacists">facebook.com/Ohio.Pharmacists</a>
Twitter:	<a href="https://twitter.com/OhioPharmacists">twitter.com/OhioPharmacists</a>
Group Contact:	<a href="#">Abby Palcic</a>
Experience Columbus Contact:	<a href="#">Carrie Thiel</a>

### American Association of Collegiate Registrars & Admissions Officers Annual Meeting | April 7–10

The AACRAO Annual Meeting is an opportunity to learn, network, and advance higher education. Professionals from a variety of higher education disciplines gather together at AACRAO's Annual Meeting to engage and discuss the ever-changing landscape of higher ed.

Attendance:	3,500
Meals:	Attendees are on their own for some meals.
Location:	Greater Columbus Convention Center
Website:	<a href="https://aacrao.com">aacrao.com</a>

Facebook: [facebook.com/AACRAO](https://facebook.com/AACRAO)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/AACRAO](https://twitter.com/AACRAO)  
Group Contact: [Becky Fowkes](#)  
Experience Columbus Contact: [Carrie Thiel](#)

## U.S. Soccer SheBelieves Cup | April 9

Columbus hosts the third place and championship matches of the international women's soccer competition. Teams include United States, Japan, Brazil and Canada.

Attendance: 20,000  
Location: Lower.com Field  
Website: [ussoccer.com/shebelieves/cup](https://ussoccer.com/shebelieves/cup)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/officialussoccer](https://facebook.com/officialussoccer)  
Group Contact: [John Terry](#)  
Sports Commission Contact: [Ariana Tyler](#)

## SkillsUSA Ohio Championships | April 9–10

SkillsUSA Ohio is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working to grow America's skilled workforce. Students are empowered to become world-class workers, leaders and citizens through personal, workplace and technical skills development.

Attendance: 5,000  
Meals: Attendees are on their own for meals.  
Location: Drury Plaza Hotel Columbus Downtown  
Website: [ohioskillsusa.org](https://ohioskillsusa.org)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/SkillsUSA](https://facebook.com/SkillsUSA)  
Group Contact: [Jackie Walker](#)  
Experience Columbus Contact: [Amanda Kisabeth](#)

## Equine Affaire: The Great American Horse Exposition | April 11–14

The Great American Horse Exposition is North America's premiere equine exposition and equestrian gathering. It is a unique celebration of the horse offering unparalleled education, entertainment, and shopping opportunities.

Attendance: 100,000  
Meals: Attendees are on their own for meals.  
Location: Ohio Expo Center  
Website: [equineaffaire.com](https://equineaffaire.com)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/equineaffaire](https://facebook.com/equineaffaire)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/equineaffaire](https://twitter.com/equineaffaire)  
Group Contact: [Lori Helse](#)  
Experience Columbus Contact: [Amanda Kisabeth](#)

## OVR National Bid Tournament | April 12–14

Regional teams compete for a bid to the USA Volleyball Girls Junior National Championships.

Attendance: 2,500  
Location: Greater Columbus Convention Center  
Website: [ovr.org/girls](https://ovr.org/girls)

Facebook: [facebook.com/ovr.org](https://facebook.com/ovr.org)  
Group Contact: [Ron Wyzynski](#)  
Sports Commission Contact: [Jason Abady](#)

## Academic Internal Medicine Week | April 14–17

Academic Internal Medicine Week is the premier conference for faculty and staff in departments of internal medicine at medical schools and teaching hospitals.

Attendance: 3,000  
Meals: Attendees will be on their own for dinners.  
Location: Greater Columbus Convention Center  
Website: [im.org](http://im.org)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/AAIMonline](https://facebook.com/AAIMonline)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/AAIMonline](https://twitter.com/AAIMonline)  
Group Contact: [Christine Tambini](#)  
Experience Columbus Contact: [Amanda Kisabeth](#)

## Ohio Association of School Business Officials Annual Conference and Expo | April 16–19

This one-of-a-kind event offers Ohio school business officials the opportunity to learn and network. It is also a unique opportunity for school business officials and school business product/service vendors to have beneficial conversations. The OASBO Expo brings state, national, and international vendors together to help Ohio's school business officials solve their toughest challenges. Treasurers, business managers, and other school business officials will find experienced companies specializing in working with K-12 clients.

Attendance: 1,000  
Meals: Most meals are provided for attendees.  
Location: Greater Columbus Convention Center  
Website: [oasbo-ohio.org](http://oasbo-ohio.org)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/OASBO](https://facebook.com/OASBO)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/oasbo](https://twitter.com/oasbo)  
Group Contact: [Nadeen Askew](#)  
Experience Columbus Contact: [Carrie Thiel](#)

## Population Association of America Annual Meeting | April 17–20

The Population Association of America's annual meeting is the premier conference of demographers and social and health scientists from the United States and abroad. Here demographers at all career stages are afforded the opportunity to present their research in oral and poster sessions, hear others' findings, and network with their peers. Since PAA's first conference in 1932, much important research has been presented on topics ranging from migration to reproductive health to race and gender issues.

Attendance: 2,200  
Meals: Some meals are provided for attendees.  
Location: Hyatt Regency Columbus  
Website: [populationassociation.org](http://populationassociation.org)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/PopAssoc](https://facebook.com/PopAssoc)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/PopAssocAmerica](https://twitter.com/PopAssocAmerica)  
Group Contact: [Bobbie Westmoreland](#)  
Experience Columbus Contact: [Zach Warmouth](#)

## NCAA National Collegiate Men's Gymnastics Championship | April 19–20

Top NCAA gymnastics teams compete for the national title as Columbus hosts for the third time since 2011.

Attendance:	1,500
Location:	Covelli Center
Website:	<a href="http://ncaa.com/gymnastics-men">ncaa.com/gymnastics-men</a>
Facebook:	<a href="https://facebook.com/ncaa1906">facebook.com/ncaa1906</a>
Group Contact:	<a href="#">John Bugner</a>
Sports Commission Contact:	<a href="#">Ariana Tyler</a>

## Club Ohio Girls Nike Challenge Cup | April 20–21

Regional club soccer teams compete for the 25th annual Nike Challenge Cup.

Attendance:	2,000
Location:	Darree Fields Park, Kilbourne Run Sports Park, Spindler Park
Website:	<a href="http://clubohiosoccer.com/nike-challenge-cup">clubohiosoccer.com/nike-challenge-cup</a>
Facebook:	<a href="https://facebook.com/ClubOhioSoccer">facebook.com/ClubOhioSoccer</a>
Group Contact:	<a href="#">Sandy Poole</a>
Sports Commission Contact:	<a href="#">Jason Abady</a>

## OVR Girls Junior Championships | April 20–May 19

Club teams compete for a regional championship across age groups.

Attendance:	3,000
Location:	Greater Columbus Convention Center
Website:	<a href="http://ovr.org/girls">ovr.org/girls</a>
Facebook:	<a href="https://facebook.com/ovr.org">facebook.com/ovr.org</a>
Group Contact:	<a href="#">Ron Wyzynski</a>
Sports Commission Contact:	<a href="#">Jason Abady</a>

## Wendy's Wonderful Kids Summit | April 22–24

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption is a national, nonprofit public charity dedicated to finding forever families for the more than 140,000 children waiting to be adopted from foster care in the United States and Canada. Through its signature program, Wendy's Wonderful Kids®, the Foundation supports the hiring of adoption professionals, known as recruiters, who serve children most at risk of aging out of foster care without a permanent home. The Foundation works closely with child welfare advocates and policymakers, provides free resources about foster care adoption and raises awareness through social media campaigns, public service announcements and events.

Attendance:	550
Meals:	Attendees are on their own for most meals.
Location:	Hyatt Regency Columbus
Website:	<a href="http://davethomasfoundation.org">davethomasfoundation.org</a>
Facebook:	<a href="https://facebook.com/DTFA">facebook.com/DTFA</a>
Twitter:	<a href="https://twitter.com/DTFA">twitter.com/DTFA</a>
Group Contact:	<a href="#">Andrea Williams</a>
Experience Columbus Contact:	<a href="#">Carrie Thiel</a>

## Ohio Credit Union League inVest 48 | April 22–24

Brings together more than 300 of the sharpest credit union minds in Ohio allowing them to connect, share ideas and learn from each other for the betterment of their credit union and the entire Credit Union Movement.

Attendance:	500
Meals:	Meals provided for attendees including evening events.
Location:	Hilton Columbus Downtown
Website:	<a href="http://ohiocreditunions.org">ohiocreditunions.org</a>
Facebook:	<a href="https://facebook.com/WeAreOCUL">facebook.com/WeAreOCUL</a>
Twitter:	<a href="https://twitter.com/weareocul">twitter.com/weareocul</a>
Group Contact:	<a href="#">Melanie Shaner</a>
Experience Columbus Contact:	<a href="#">Zach Warmouth</a>

## U.S. Chess Elementary Championships | April 26–28

Elementary school children compete for individual and team trophies in chess.

Attendance:	5,000
Location:	Greater Columbus Convention Center
Website:	<a href="http://uschess.org/tournaments/">uschess.org/tournaments/</a>
Group Contact:	<a href="#">Hilda Pope</a>
Sports Commission Contact:	<a href="#">Jason Abady</a>

## OhioHealth Capital City Half & Quarter Marathon | April 27

Called the "best tour of Columbus on two feet," runners get to see all the highlights of Ohio's capital and tour its diverse neighborhoods as the half marathon winds its way through downtown.

Attendance:	25,000
Location:	Downtown Columbus
Website:	<a href="http://capitalcityhalfmarathon.com">capitalcityhalfmarathon.com</a>
Facebook:	<a href="https://facebook.com/CapCityHalf">facebook.com/CapCityHalf</a>
Group Contact:	<a href="#">David Babner</a>
Sports Commission Contact:	<a href="#">Jason Abady</a>

## Club Ohio Boys Nike Challenge Cup | April 27–28

Regional club soccer teams compete for the 25th annual Nike Challenge Cup.

Attendance:	2,500
Location:	Darree Fields Park, Kilbourne Run Sports Park, Spindler Park
Website:	<a href="http://clubohiosoccer.com/nike-challenge-cup">clubohiosoccer.com/nike-challenge-cup</a>
Facebook:	<a href="https://facebook.com/ClubOhioSoccer">facebook.com/ClubOhioSoccer</a>
Group Contact:	<a href="#">Sandy Poole</a>
Sports Commission Contact:	<a href="#">Jason Abady</a>

## Annual Honda Supplier Conference | April 29–May 1

America has been home to Honda associates since the company opened its first storefront office in Los Angeles in 1959. For more than 60 years, Honda has invested in its U.S. operations, created

jobs, and contributed to the U.S. economy as a committed corporate citizen in America.

**Attendance:** 1,000  
**Meals:** Attendees are on their own for meals.  
**Location:** Hyatt Regency Columbus  
**Website:** [hondainamerica.com](http://hondainamerica.com)  
**Facebook:** [facebook.com/Honda](https://facebook.com/Honda)  
**Twitter:** [twitter.com/HondaInAmerica](https://twitter.com/HondaInAmerica)  
**Group Contact:** [Cortney McClure](#)  
**Experience Columbus Contact:** [Zach Warmouth](#)

## May Events

### Big Ten Conference Men's Lacrosse Semi-Finals & Championship | May 2–4

The Big Ten Men's Lacrosse Semi-Finals and Championship is the premier event for collegiate lacrosse teams in the Big Ten Conference. It features intense competition and showcases the top talent in the sport, culminating in a thrilling battle for the championship title.

**Attendance:** 1,000  
**Location:** Ohio State University Lacrosse Stadium  
**Website:** [bigten.org/MLAX\\_Tourn](http://bigten.org/MLAX_Tourn)  
**Facebook:** [facebook.com/BigTen](https://facebook.com/BigTen)  
**Group Contact:** [Tyler Eatman](#)  
**Sports Commission Contact:** [Jason Abady](#)

### The Iron and Steel Technology Conference & Exposition (AISTech) | May 6–9

Steel's Premier Technology Event will feature technologies from all over the world that help steel producers compete more effectively in today's global market. AISTech is a can't-miss event for anyone involved at any level of today's steel marketplace, providing perspective on the technology and engineering expertise necessary to power a sustainable steel industry.

**Attendance:** 7,000  
**Meals:** Some meals are provided for attendees.  
**Location:** Greater Columbus Convention Center  
**Website:** [aist.org](http://aist.org)  
**Facebook:** [facebook.com/AISTech](https://facebook.com/AISTech)  
**Twitter:** [twitter.com/AISTech](https://twitter.com/AISTech)  
**Group Contact:** [Shannon Kiley](#)  
**Experience Columbus Contact:** [Carrie Thiel](#)

### Angel Capital Association (ACA) Summit | May 13–15

Three days of quality content, interactive discussions, and vibrant networking to elevate your angel investing experience. Whether you are a new or experienced investor, angel group leader or part of the broader community supporting entrepreneurs and early-stage investments, you'll learn the latest on trending topics and meet new people, all to help improve your outcomes.

**Attendance:** 800  
**Meals:** Some meals are provided for attendees.  
**Location:** Hyatt Regency Columbus  
**Website:** [angelcapitalassociation.org](http://angelcapitalassociation.org)  
**Facebook:** [facebook.com/ACAAngelCapital](https://facebook.com/ACAAngelCapital)

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/ACAAngelCapital](https://twitter.com/ACAAngelCapital)  
**Group Contact:** [Parker MacDonell](#)  
**Experience Columbus Contact:** [Zach Warmouth](#)

## Ohio Healthcare Association Annual Convention & Exposition | May 13–16

Ohio's largest gathering of post-acute and long-term care professionals featuring unsurpassed educational sessions, fun networking events, and inspirational speakers for today's long-term & post-acute care professionals.

**Attendance:** 3,500  
**Meals:** Lunches are provided daily, but most attendees are on their own for dinner on Tuesday and Wednesday night.  
**Location:** Greater Columbus Convention Center  
**Website:** [ohca.org](http://ohca.org)  
**Facebook:** [facebook.com/OHCA.Ohio](https://facebook.com/OHCA.Ohio)  
**Twitter:** [twitter.com/OHCA\\_Ohio](https://twitter.com/OHCA_Ohio)  
**Group Contact:** [Kathy Chapman](#)  
**Experience Columbus Contact:** [Jeremy Tipton](#)

## American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) Connect | May 20–22

AIHA Connect (formerly AIHce EXP) is the must-attend experience for OEHS professionals of all levels, specialties, and expertise. Discover the tools and strategies you need to protect worker health while taking advantage of several networking opportunities to grow your professional network. AIHA is pleased to offer in-person or virtual Experiences to accommodate the needs of attendees around the globe.

**Attendance:** 4,000  
**Meals:** Some meals are provided for attendees.  
**Location:** Greater Columbus Convention Center  
**Website:** [aiha.org](http://aiha.org)  
**Facebook:** [facebook.com/AIHAGlobal](https://facebook.com/AIHAGlobal)  
**Twitter:** [twitter.com/AIHA](https://twitter.com/AIHA)  
**Group Contact:** [Bethany Chirico](#)  
**Experience Columbus Contact:** [Carrie Thiel](#)

## USA Volleyball Adult Open Championships and Annual Meeting | May 24–29

The USA Volleyball Adult Open Championships and Annual Meeting is a premier event that brings together volleyball enthusiasts from across the country. Featuring intense competitions and a platform for networking and learning.

**Attendance:** 8,000  
**Location:** Greater Columbus Convention Center  
**Website:** [usavolleyball.org/USAVolleyball](http://usavolleyball.org/USAVolleyball)  
**Facebook:** [facebook.com/USAVolleyball](https://facebook.com/USAVolleyball)  
**Group Contact:** [Kristy Cox](#)  
**Sports Commission Contact:** [Ariana Tyler](#)

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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 a recipient to receive this email, have them fill out [this form](#). To change or delete an email recipient, please contact Jenese Tchokouani at [jtchokouani@experiencecolumbus.com](mailto:jtchokouani@experiencecolumbus.com).

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