

EXPERIENCE COLUMBUS



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

March Events

OHSAA Boys' and Girls' State Bowling Tournament | March 1–2 & 8–9

The top high school bowlers compete for division championships.

Attendance:	2,500
Location:	Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl
Website:	ohsaa.org/sports/bowling
Facebook:	facebook.com/ohsaa.sports
Group Contact:	Emily Mason
Sports Commission Contact:	Mason Zimmer

OHSAA State Gymnastics Tournament | March 2–3

The top high school gymnasts compete for team and individual championships.

Attendance:	600
Location:	Hilliard Bradley High School
Website:	ohsaa.org/sports/gymnastics
Facebook:	facebook.com/ohsaa.sports
Group Contact:	Kate Barnett
Sports Commission Contact:	Mason Zimmer

OHSAA Boys' and Girls' State Wrestling Tournament | March 8–10

One of the state's biggest championships returns to Columbus as top girls and boys wrestlers compete for top honors.

Attendance: 25,000
Location: Schottenstein Center
Website: ohsaa.org/sports/wrestling
Facebook: facebook.com/ohsaa.sports
Group Contact: [Dustin Ware](#)
Sports Commission Contact: [Mason Zimmer](#)

OHSAA State Ice Hockey Tournament | March 8–10

The top high school boys hockey teams compete on the same ice as the Blue Jackets.

Attendance: 4,000
Location: Nationwide Arena
Website: ohsaa.org/sports/icehockey
Facebook: facebook.com/ohsaa.sports
Group Contact: [Monroe Britton](#)
Sports Commission Contact: [Mason Zimmer](#)

2024 International Sleep Products Association (ISPA) Expo | March 12–14

The world's largest tradeshow exclusively for the sleep products industry! ISPA EXPO is the largest, most comprehensive exhibition in the mattress industry. ISPA EXPO features exhibits of the latest mattress machinery, components and supplies — and everything bedding related. Mattress producers and industry leaders come to ISPA EXPO from around the world to explore the show floor to connect with the people, products, ideas, and opportunities that set the pace for the mattress industry's future.

Attendance: 4,000
Meals: Attendees are on their own for breakfast and lunch.
Location: Hilton Columbus Downtown and the Greater Columbus Convention Center
Website: sleepproducts.org
Facebook: facebook.com/ISPAAsleep
Twitter: twitter.com/ISPAEXPO
Group Contact: [Catherine Lyons](#)
Experience Columbus Contact: [Carrie Thiel](#)

NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Championship | March 14–16

All roads lead to Columbus as Capital hosts the 2024 DIII Women's Basketball Championship. The best 64 DIII teams are all looking to get crowned in Columbus.

Attendance: 2,000
Location: Capital University
Website: ncaa.com/sports/basketball-women
Facebook: facebook.com/ncaa1906
Group Contact: [Kelly Whitaker](#)
Sports Commission Contact: [Ariana Tyler](#)

NCAA National Collegiate Men's and Women's Fencing Championships | March 21–24

Columbus hosts the NCAA Fencing Championship for the sixth time since 2008.

Attendance: 500
Location: The Ohio State University
Website: ncaa.com/sports/fencing
Facebook: facebook.com/ncaa1906
Group Contact: [Eric Breece](#)
Sports Commission Contact: [Ariana Tyler](#)

American Cheer Power Grand Nationals 2024 | March 23–24

ACP is dedicated to the development of their athletes, teams, and coaches. They commit themselves to inspiring excellence in current and future generations. American Cheer Power will award full paid and at-large bids to The Cheerleading Worlds 2024.

Attendance: 15,000
Meals: Attendees are on their own for meals.
Location: Greater Columbus Convention Center
Website: varsity.com
Twitter: twitter.com/varsityallstar
Group Contact: [Francesca Beyer](#)
Experience Columbus Contact: [Carrie Thiel](#)

2024 Ohio Safety Congress & Expo | March 27–29

The Ohio Safety Congress & Expo®, hosted annually by the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation, is the nation's largest free occupational safety conference focusing on helping employers improve safety and health within their business. Over 6500 attendees gain knowledge and earn continuing education credits by participating in over 150 educational sessions, workshops, and leading keynote presentations. Find the best solutions to your biggest challenges while networking with 300 exhibiting companies in the Expo Marketplace.

Attendance: 6,500
Meals: Attendees are on their own for meals.
Location: Greater Columbus Convention Center
Website: ohiosafetycongress.com
Facebook: facebook.com/OBWC
Twitter: twitter.com/ohiobwc
Group Contact: [Sherry Johnson](#)
Experience Columbus Contact: [Zach Warmouth](#)

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: ohiopharmacists.org
Facebook: facebook.com/Ohio.Pharmacists

Twitter: twitter.com/OhioPharmacists
Group Contact: [Abby Palcic](#)
Experience Columbus Contact: [Carrie Thiel](#)

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: aacrao.com
Facebook: facebook.com/AACRAO
Twitter: 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
Facebook: 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
Facebook: 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
Facebook: facebook.com/equineaffaire
Twitter: twitter.com/equineaffaire
Group Contact: [Lori Hesel](#)
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
Facebook: 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
Facebook: facebook.com/AAIMonline
Twitter: 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
Facebook: facebook.com/OASBO
Twitter: 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
Facebook: facebook.com/PopAssoc
Twitter: 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: ncaa.com/gymnastics-men
Facebook: facebook.com/ncaa1906
Group Contact: [John Bugner](#)
Sports Commission Contact: [Ariana Tyler](#)

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: clubohiosoccer.com/nike-challenge-cup
Facebook: facebook.com/ClubOhioSoccer
Group Contact: [Sandy Poole](#)
Sports Commission Contact: [Jason Abady](#)

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

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: davethomasfoundation.org
Facebook: facebook.com/DTFA
Twitter: twitter.com/DTFA
Group Contact: [Andrea Williams](#)
Experience Columbus Contact: [Carrie Thiel](#)

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: ohiocreditunions.org
Facebook: facebook.com/WeAreOCUL
Twitter: twitter.com/weareocul
Group Contact: [Melanie Shaner](#)
Experience Columbus Contact: [Zach Warmouth](#)

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: uschess.org/tournaments/
Group Contact: [Hilda Pope](#)
Sports Commission Contact: [Jason Abady](#)

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: capitalcityhalfmarathon.com
Facebook: facebook.com/CapCityHalf
Group Contact: [David Babner](#)
Sports Commission Contact: [Jason Abady](#)

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:	clubohiosoccer.com/nike-challenge-cup
Facebook:	facebook.com/ClubOhioSoccer
Group Contact:	Sandy Poole
Sports Commission Contact:	Jason Abady

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
Facebook:	facebook.com/Honda
Twitter:	twitter.com/HondaInAmerica
Group Contact:	Cortney McClure
Experience Columbus Contact:	Zach Warmouth

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.

#LIVEFORWARDCBUS

COLUMBUS
LIVE FORWARD

Experience Columbus
277 W. Nationwide Blvd., Ste. 125, Columbus, OH 43215
ExperienceColumbus.com | [manage your subscriptions](#)