



This alert contains information on the conventions and sporting events that will be arriving in January and February 2026. We hope you find this information useful for scheduling and to help welcome attendees.

January Events

Fellowship of Catholic University Students SEEK | January 1-5

SEEK/FOCUS Columbus 2026 is a large Catholic conference organized by FOCUS, and is one of three regional gatherings for the national SEEK event, bringing together college students, parishioners, clergy, and seminarians for faith formation, worship, and community. The event features keynote speakers, Mass, confession, adoration, breakout sessions, and entertainment.

Attendance: 15,000

Meals: Attendees will have breakfast and lunch provided, and will be on their own for dinner.

Location: Greater Columbus Convention Center

Facebook: facebook.com/focuscatholic/

X: x.com/focuscatholic

Group Contact: [Tori Green](#)

Experience Columbus Contact: [Jeremy Tipton](#)

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American Baseball Coaches Association Convention | January 8-11

The ABCA Convention is the world's largest gathering of baseball coaches, held annually each January. It brings together thousands of coaches from all levels—youth, high school, college, and professional—for educational clinics, networking, and the nation's largest baseball trade show. The event features expert speakers, panel discussions, and hands-on sessions focused on player development, strategy, leadership, and the latest trends in the game.

Attendance: 12,000

Meals: Attendees are on their own for meals.

Location: Greater Columbus Convention Center

Facebook: facebook.com/ABCA1945/

X: x.com/abca1945

Group Contact: [Zach Haile](#)

Experience Columbus Contact: [Jeremy Tipton](#)

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Ohio Fair Managers Association Annual Convention | January 14-18

OFMA is a voluntary corporation servicing state, independent and county junior and senior agricultural fairs, shows, exhibitions and festivals within Ohio. This event offers educational sessions and a trade show for fair managers to select attractions and services for their fairs.

Attendance: 4,000

Meals: Attendees are on their own for some meals.

Location: Hyatt Regency Columbus

Facebook: facebook.com/ohiofairs/

Group Contact: [Howard Call](#)

Experience Columbus Contact: [Jeremy Tipton](#)

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The Nike Classic | January 17-18

Attendance: 6,500

Location: Greater Columbus Convention Center

Group Contact: [Jon Curran](#)

Sports Commission Contact: [Ariana Tyler](#)

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OVR Girls Winterfest (#1) | January 24-25

Attendance: 2,500

Location: Greater Columbus Convention Center

Facebook: facebook.com/ovr.org/

Group Contact: [Brian Hofman](#)

Sports Commission Contact: [Jason Abady](#)

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Chief Executive Summit | January 26-28

Attendance: 150

Location: Hilton Columbus Downtown

Facebook: facebook.com/SportsETA/

Sports Commission Contact: [Ariana Tyler](#)

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Ohio Music Education Association Professional Development Conference | January 29-31

The OMEA PDC is the third largest music conference in the United States with nearly 300 sessions presented by nationally recognized master teachers demonstrating research-based, best practices in the field of music education.

Attendance: 9,000

Meals: Attendees are on their own for some meals.

Location: Greater Columbus Convention Center

Facebook: facebook.com/OMEAOhio/

Group Contact: [Jay Wardeska](#)

Experience Columbus Contact: [Carrie Thiel](#)

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International Pride Softball Winter Meeting | January 29-February 2

Attendance: 130

Location: Renaissance Columbus Downtown Hotel

Facebook: facebook.com/ipridesoftball/

Group Contact: [Dallas Aldridge](#)

Sports Commission Contact: [Ariana Tyler](#)

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OVR 18's Girls Qualifier and Boys Winterfest (#2) | January 30-February 1

Attendance: 1,500

Location: Greater Columbus Convention Center

Facebook: facebook.com/ovr.org/

Group Contact: [Brian Hofman](#)

Sports Commission Contact: [Jason Abady](#)

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February Events

Ohio Township Association Winter Conference | February 4-6

The Ohio Township Association's annual winter conference offers township officials and staff education, networking and one of the Midwest's largest local government trade shows.

Attendance: 3,000

Meals: Attendees are on their own for meals.

Location: Greater Columbus Convention Center

Facebook: facebook.com/OhioTownshipAssociation

Group Contact: [Michael Zaky](#)

Experience Columbus Contact: [Lindsey Wolfe](#)

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Southwest Ohio Instructional Technology Association Ohio Educational Technology Conference | February 10-12

Hosted by the Ohio Ed Techs, the Ohio Educational Technology Conference (OETC) is one of the nation's premier PK-20 state edtech conferences. Each year, thousands of educators, technology leaders and innovators from across Ohio and beyond come together to explore how teaching, learning and technology connect to enhance student success.

Attendance: 7,000

Meals: Attendees are on their own for meals.

Location: Greater Columbus Convention Center

Facebook: facebook.com/ohioetc

X: [x.com/OhioEdTech](https://twitter.com/OhioEdTech)

Group Contact: [Deb Tschirhart](#)

Experience Columbus Contact: [Jeremy Tipton](#)

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OVR President's Cup & Boys Jr. Championships | February 13-16

Attendance: 6,500

Location: Greater Columbus Convention Center

Facebook: facebook.com/ovr.org

Group Contact: [Brian Hofman](#)

Sports Commission Contact: [Ariana Tyler](#)

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National Association for Campus Activities (NACA) National Convention | February 13-16

NACA Campus LIVE Columbus is the National Association for Campus Activities' premier national convention. The event brings together college event planners, student leaders, entertainers and vendors for four days of live showcases, educational sessions and networking.

Attendance: 2,000

Meals: Attendees are on their own for meals.

Location: Greater Columbus Convention Center

Facebook: facebook.com/TheNACA

X: [x.com/THENACA](https://twitter.com/THENACA)

Group Contact: [Toire Vince](#)

Experience Columbus Contact: [Jeremy Tipton](#)

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Hockey Time Productions – Buckeye Classic Tournament Series | February 16-19

Hockey Time Productions is about creating an optimal environment for teams and families to gather, compete and enjoy the great game of hockey. The tournament series will be held at the Chiller Dublin and Chiller North.

Attendance: 1,000

Location: OhioHealth Chiller Ice Rinks

Facebook: facebook.com/hockeytimeproductions

Group Contact: [Eric Coleman](#)

Sports Commission Contact: [Ariana Tyler](#)

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Sarnova National Sales Meeting | February 16-20

Sarnova is the nation's leading specialty distributor of healthcare products, services and solutions for those on the front lines in our communities and hospitals.

Attendance: 500

Meals: Attendees are on their own for some meals.

Location: Hilton Columbus Downtown & Greater Columbus Convention Center

Facebook: facebook.com/SarnovaHC

Group Contact: [Jay Plantz](#)

Experience Columbus Contact: [Lindsey Wolfe](#)

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OVR Terry Miller National & American Classic | February 21-22

Attendance: 5,500

Location: Greater Columbus Convention Center

Facebook: facebook.com/ovr.org

Group Contact: [Brian Hofman](#)

Sports Commission Contact: [Ariana Tyler](#)

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Ohio Veterinary Medical Association Midwest Veterinary Conference | February 26-28

Hosted by the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association, the Midwest Veterinary Conference (MVC) brings together thousands of animal care professionals each year for educational experiences.

Attendance: 5,500

Meals: Attendees are on their own for most meals.

Location: Greater Columbus Convention Center

Facebook: facebook.com/mvcinfo

Group Contact: [Lisa Sileargy](#)

Experience Columbus Contact: [Zach Wellman](#)

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OHSAA Boys & Girls State Bowling Championships | February 27-March 8

The Ohio High School Athletic Association is headquartered in Columbus and hosts several state championships in the city. The OHSAA Bowling Championships feature boys' and girls' Division I and II teams and individuals competing for state titles.

Attendance: 3,500

Location: HPL Bowling Center

Facebook: facebook.com/OHSAASports

Group Contact: [Emily Gates](#)

Sports Commission Contact: [Ariana Tyler](#)

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The Nike Gauntlet | February 28-March 1

The Nike Circuit produces events designed not only to showcase the athleticism of its athletes but also to be more than "just another tournament." The Gauntlet is a new event in Columbus and the second event hosted by the Nike Circuit.

Attendance: 5,000

Location: Greater Columbus Convention Center

Group Contact: [Kathy Beals](#)

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.

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