



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

October Events

Best Buy Company, Inc. Holiday Leadership Meeting | October 5-7

Attendance: 1,900

Meals: On October 5 and 6, Best Buy Holiday Leadership will be in Columbus, bringing approximately 1,900 attendees to the city. We wanted to make our restaurant partners aware of this opportunity so you can plan accordingly and be prepared to welcome their attendees. This group will have a strong presence in the community during the evening hours, with many attendees looking for dining and late-night options between approximately 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. Based on feedback from last year's event, attendees are especially interested in late-night dining opportunities in and around the Greater Columbus Convention Center area. If you are able to offer extended hours or late-night dining options during this timeframe, we encourage you to consider this opportunity and welcome the attendees visiting Columbus.

Experience Columbus Contact: [Jeremy Tipton](#)

Premiere Beauty Classic | October 11-12

The 2026 Premiere Columbus Show Preview gives you your first look at the education, brands, and experiences waiting for you this fall. Explore 130+ classes, learn from industry experts, and discover the products, techniques, and trends shaping the future of beauty.

Attendance: 5,000

Meals: Attendees will be responsible for their own meals.

Location: Greater Columbus Convention Center

Facebook: facebook.com/PremiereBeautyShows

Group Contact: [Jayke Lind](#)

Experience Columbus Contact: [Lindsey Wolfe](#)

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American Society for Nondestructive Testing Annual Conference | October 12-15

The American Society for Nondestructive Testing, Inc. (ASNT) is the world's largest technical society for nondestructive testing (NDT) professionals. As professional development conference, ASNT's annual conference is designed to "bring the NDT world together" for the purposes of learning, collaborating and networking. The conference is also used as ASNT's most visible channel to forward the strategic plan of the organization.

Attendance: 2,500

Meals: Lunch is being provided on Tuesday and Wednesday, attendees are on their own for the rest of the meals.

Location: Hilton Columbus Downtown

Facebook: facebook.com/asntinfo

Group Contact: [Alicia LeMasters, CMP](#)

Experience Columbus Contact: [Carrie Thiel](#)

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Ohio Optometric Association EastWest Eye Conference | October 14-17

The EastWest Eye Conference is the premier conference in the Midwest for eye care professionals. This year, EastWest has the same high-quality CE and fun events along with a new location – Columbus!

Attendance: 1,300

Meals: Attendees will be responsible for their own meals.

Location: Hilton Columbus Downtown

Facebook: facebook.com/EastWestEyeConference

Group Contact: [Jordan Quickel](#)

Experience Columbus Contact: [Jeremy Tipton](#)

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Intercollegiate Tennis Association – DI Men's Midwest Regional Championship | October 15-19

The 2026 ITA DI Men's Midwest Regional Championship will be hosted by The Ohio State University. The tournament brings some of the top men's collegiate tennis players from across the Midwest to compete in singles and doubles. The championship features a 64-player singles main draw, and 64-team doubles draw, with qualifying and main-draw competition taking place throughout the week. The two singles finalists and the doubles champion from each ITA region earn qualifications for the NCAA Championships.

Attendance: 500

Meals: Attendees will be responsible for their own meals.

Location: Ohio State University

Facebook: facebook.com/ITACollegeTennis

Group Contact: [Tyler Eatman](#)

Sports Commission Contact: [Jen Beck](#)

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Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon | October 17-18

The 2026 Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon takes place October 17-18, bringing thousands of runners and spectators to downtown Columbus. The weekend begins Saturday with the Jesse Owens 5K and 1-mile Fun Run/Walk. Sunday is the main event, with the Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon starting at 7:30 a.m. from the North Bank Park. A race expo and packet pickup will be held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, Friday, October 16 from 12-7 p.m. and Saturday, October 17 from 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Attendance: 38,000

Meals: Attendees will be responsible for their own meals.

Location: North Bank Park, downtown Columbus streets

Facebook: facebook.com/ColumbusMarathon

Group Contact: [Darris Blackford](#)

Sports Commission Contact: [Ariana Tyler](#)

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The Ohio Transportation Engineering Conference | October 20-21

The Ohio Transportation Engineering Conference (OTEC) has been the place for transportation professionals to learn about and discuss new ways to safely and efficiently move people and goods throughout the state.

Attendance: 3,800

Meals: Attendees will be responsible for their own meals.

Location: Greater Columbus Convention Center

Group Contact: [Lan Le](#)

Experience Columbus Contact: [Jeremy Tipton](#)

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Independent Electrical Contractors SPARK | October 21-24

IEC SPARK 2026, the premier event for electrical contractors, is coming to the Greater Columbus Convention Center in downtown Columbus, from October 21-24, 2026. The multi-day expo features hands-on training, industry vendor showcases, leadership development, and networking opportunities for professionals across the trade.

Attendance: 1,500

Meals: Lunch is served in the Exhibit Hall Thursday and Friday, breakfast is served Thursday – attendees are on their own for all other meals.

Location: Greater Columbus Convention Center

Group Contact: [Kari Messenger](#)

Experience Columbus Contact: [Carrie Thiel](#)

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Eldorado Scioto Downs – Breeders Crown | October 23-24

The 2026 Breeders Crown is one of the premier events in North American harness racing. The event will feature 12 championship races for top 2-year-old, 3-year-old, open, and mare trotters and pacers, with substantial purses across the divisions. The championship finals will showcase the sport's best horses, drivers, trainers, and owners. There are several premium hospitality opportunities available, including VIP experiences and a beer garden.

Attendance: 15,000

Meals: Attendees will be responsible for their own meals.

Location: Eldorado Scioto Downs

Group Contact: [Amy Ankerson](#)

Sports Commission Contact: [Ariana Tyler](#)

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SingUnited International Convention | October 26-31

SingUnited International is the global organization for women's barbershop harmony singers and one of the premier a cappella music organizations in the world. The SingUnited International Convention will take place October 26–31, 2026, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, bringing together top qualifying choruses and quartets from around the globe to compete for international championship titles. In addition to the highly anticipated competitions, the week will feature educational workshops, performances by past champions, networking opportunities, and social events, creating a vibrant celebration of music, artistry, and community. Attendees are passionate supporters of the performing arts and often extend their time in the destination to experience local attractions, restaurants, and entertainment offerings.

Please Note: SingUnited International was formerly known as Sweet Adelines International. The organization previously held its 77th Annual International Convention & Competition in Columbus from October 20–25, 2025. Many local businesses and hospitality partners may recognize the group from its previous visit. While the organization has since rebranded to SingUnited International, it continues to attract a large international audience that generates significant economic impact through hotel stays, dining, entertainment, shopping, and local transportation.

Attendance: 4,000

Meals: SingUnited International 2026 convention attendees are fully responsible for arranging and purchasing their own meals while in Columbus. The group is approximately 99% female and is expected to arrive primarily on Sunday and Monday, creating significant dining demand throughout the city during those days. Attendees frequently dine out in large groups and often seek restaurants that can accommodate group seating, offer convenient locations, and remain open later into the evening. Competition schedules, rehearsals, and special events regularly extend beyond traditional dinner hours, resulting in increased demand for late-night dining options. Many attendees are encouraged to explore local restaurants and support Columbus businesses throughout their stay. It is also worth noting that this organization previously met in Columbus under the name Sweet Adelines International, and local restaurants and hospitality partners may recognize the strong dining activity and community engagement generated by that event.

Location: Greater Columbus Convention Center

Facebook: facebook.com/singunitedinternational

Group Contact: [Vanessa Masucci](#)

Experience Columbus Contact: [Jeremy Tipton](#)

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November Events

Boys and Girls State Soccer Championships | November 3–7

The 2026 Boys and Girls State Soccer Championships will take place November 3–7, 2026, at Historic Crew Stadium in Columbus. The five-day championship will feature top high school boys' and girls' soccer programs from across Ohio competing for state titles in multiple divisions. With 17,000 attendees expected, the event will bring players, coaches, families, and supporters to Columbus for one of the state's largest high school soccer events.

Attendance: 17,000

Location: Historic Crew Stadium

Meals: Attendees will be on their own for meals throughout the event.

Facebook: facebook.com/OHSAASports

Group Contact: [Kelly Schoenly](#)

Sports Commission Contact: [Ariana Tyler](#)

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Key Communications, Inc. Glass Expo Midwest | November 4–5

Glass Expo Midwest™ '26 returns for two days of high-impact networking, education, and exhibition serving the architectural, metal, and auto glass industries. This is where industry decision-makers come to source products, evaluate innovations, and build long-term partnerships.

Attendance: 800

Meals: Attendees are on their own for meals.

Location: Greater Columbus Convention Center

Facebook: facebook.com/glassexpos

Group Contact: [Tina Czar](#)

Experience Columbus Contact: [Jeremy Tipton](#)

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State Field Hockey Championship | November 5–7

The 2026 State Field Hockey Championship will take place November 5–7, 2026, at Thomas Worthington High School. Following regional tournament play, Ohio's top high school field hockey teams will advance to Columbus to compete for state titles. The three-day championship is expected to attract approximately 2,000 athletes, coaches, families, and spectators from communities throughout Ohio.

Attendance: 2,000

Location: Thomas Worthington High School

Meals: Attendees will be responsible for their own meals.

Facebook: facebook.com/OHSAASports

Sports Commission Contact: [Ariana Tyler](#)

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Big Ten Field Hockey Championship | November 5–8

The 2026 Big Ten Field Hockey Championship will take place November 5–8, 2026, at Buckeye Varsity Field at The Ohio State University. The tournament will feature the conference's top field hockey programs, with quarterfinals, semifinals, and the championship game taking place over four days. With an expected attendance of 4,000, the championship will give Columbus the opportunity to host a premier collegiate field hockey event and Big Ten competition on a national stage.

Attendance: 4,000

Location: The Ohio State University (Buckeye Varsity Field)

Meals: Attendees will be responsible for their own meals.

Facebook: facebook.com/BigTenConference

Group Contact: [Tyler Eatman](#)

Sports Commission Contact: [Jen Beck](#)

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Club Ohio Fall Classic | November 6–7

The 2026 Club Ohio Fall Classic will take place November 6–7, 2026, at Darree Sports Complex, SportsOhio, and Soccer First in Central Ohio. The youth soccer tournament will feature teams from across the region competing in a weekend of club-level competition. Approximately 3,000 players, coaches, families, and spectators are expected to visit the Dublin area for the tournament.

Attendance: 3,000

Location: Various Regional Sports Parks

Meals: Attendees will be on their own for meals throughout the event.

Facebook: facebook.com/ClubOhioNational

Group Contact: [Jon Heath](#)

Sports Commission Contact: [Jen Beck](#)

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Boys and Girls State Cross Country Championships | November 7

The 2026 Boys and Girls State Cross Country Championships will take place November 7, 2026, at Fortress Obetz & Memorial Park. The OHSAAs championship will feature top high school boys' and girls' runners and teams competing across multiple divisions for state titles. With approximately 12,500 attendees expected, the one-day event will draw athletes and supporters from communities throughout Ohio to Central Ohio.

Attendance: 12,500

Location: Fortress Obetz & Memorial Park

Meals: Attendees will be responsible for their own meals throughout the event.

Facebook: facebook.com/OHSAASports

Group Contact: [BJ Duckworth](#)

Sports Commission Contact: [Ariana Tyler](#)

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MAC Women's Soccer Championships | November 7–13

The 2026 MAC Women's Soccer Championship will take place November 7–13, 2026, at Historic Crew Stadium in Columbus. The tournament will determine the conference's women's soccer champion through quarterfinal, semifinal, and championship matches held throughout the week. The event is expected to attract approximately 2,000 attendees while giving Columbus a chance to host some of the MAC's top collegiate programs.

Attendance: 2,000

Location: Historic Crew Stadium

Meals: Attendees will be responsible for their own evening meals.

Facebook: facebook.com/GetSomeMACTion

Group Contact: [Jonathan Lakra](#)

Sports Commission Contact: [Ariana Tyler](#)

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Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting and Exhibition | November 8–11

Get ready for Entomology 2026, ESA's 74th Annual Meeting! Our goal for every attendee is to "Connect Your Science. Expand Your Net," strengthening our community's bonds, building meaningful partnerships, and weaving together different perspectives to amplify the impact of entomology.

Attendance: 3,400

Meals: Attendees are on their own for most meals.

Location: Greater Columbus Convention Center

Facebook: facebook.com/entsoc

X: x.com/EntsocAmerica

Group Contact: [Rosina Romano](#)

Experience Columbus Contact: [Lindsey Wolfe](#)

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Skills USA Fall Leadership Conference | November 11–13

The Fall Leadership Conference is the premier professional development opportunity for High School SkillsUSA students and advisors. This conference is open to all students, advisors, and administrators.

Attendance: 1,500

Meals: Attendees are on their own for all meals. Expect dinner traffic November 11 from 4:30–8:00 PM. On November 12, expect lunch traffic from 10:00–11:30 AM and dinner from 4:00–7:00 PM. Please consider student value meals or specials November 14 for lunch and dinner, with dinner expected from 4:30–6:45 PM.

Location: Greater Columbus Convention Center

Facebook: facebook.com/SkillsUSAOhio

X: x.com/SkillsUSA

Group Contact: [Jackie Walker](#)

Experience Columbus Contact: [Jeremy Tipton](#)

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Ohio School Board Association Annual Capital Conference & Trade Show | November 15–17

The OSBA Capital Conference and Trade Show is one of the nation's premier education conventions, offering exceptional opportunities for learning, sharing and networking. The three-day event offers general sessions and more than 150 breakout sessions.

Attendance: 9,500

Meals: Attendees are on their own for meals.

Location: Greater Columbus Convention Center

Facebook: facebook.com/OHSchoolBoards

X: x.com/ohschoolboards

Group Contact: [Scott Clay](#)

Experience Columbus Contact: [Lindsey Wolfe](#)

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Ohio Star Ball 2026 Dancesport Superbowl | November 17–22

Ohio Star Ball is a six day festival celebrating dance competition. This event brings together those who love the sport at all experience levels.

Attendance: 4,000

Meals: Attendees are on their own for meals.

Location: Hyatt Regency Columbus

Facebook: facebook.com/ohiostarball

X: x.com/OhioStarBall

Group Contact: [Sam Sodano](#)

Experience Columbus Contact: [Zach Wellman](#)

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North American Cup | November 20–23

The 2026 North American Cup, hosted by USA Fencing, will take place November 20–23, 2026, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. The national competition will feature Division I, Junior, and Cadet fencers competing across épée, foil, and saber. With approximately 4,000 attendees expected, the four-day event will bring elite fencing competition to Columbus and further establish the city as a destination for national sporting events.

Attendance: 4,000

Location: Greater Columbus Convention Center

Meals: Attendees will be responsible for their own meals.

Facebook: facebook.com/USAFencing

Group Contact: [Glen Hollingsworth](#)

Sports Commission Contact: [Jen Beck](#)

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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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