



Pony Bird

The Leisure Times Activity Registration

February 2025

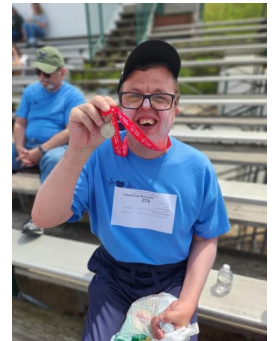
Spring sports are just around the corner..

With snow on the ground and frigid temperatures, we are not even thinking of Spring. Right? But Leisure Services is always planning ahead to make sure activities are in place and ready for you to join us. That being said, we are getting ready for our Spring sports.

Coming soon will be our swimming and track seasons. Swimming practices are held at the Jefferson County YMCA beginning in March, with our first swim meet scheduled for April 5th. Our track season will begin in March as well with a preliminary timing event. And the track meet at DeSoto High School is scheduled for April 22nd and already in the planning stages with DeSoto High Student Council.

You will find registration information for these two sports on page 5 of this newsletter. We always look forward to our athletes returning and hope to see new faces join our teams as well.

If you have any questions regarding our swimming and track season, please contact our office. Make sure you pre-register for our sports to make sure you get all updates.



Swimming 2025 Sign up now!



CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS

Main Line:	636-282-1414
	636-933-3764
Direct Lines	
Terri Dallas	636-282-1419
Donna Cooper	636-282-1411
Information Line	636-282-1422
After Hours	314-210-8760

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2025 Summer Vacation

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Basketball Practice Begins
Wednesday Evenings
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Night To Shine
February 7th
See Page 6

Science Center and Lunch
February 15th
See page 3

Area Basketball Tournament
Cape Girardeau
February 16th

Swimming Practice Begins
March 7th
See Page 5

**HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR
"REMIND TEXT ALERTS"**
See page 2 for the fastest way of
receiving notices on activity
updates and cancellations for
inclement weather.

Remind Text Alert—Sign up now!

The fastest and most efficient way of getting notice of changes with our scheduled activities is to sign up for the Remind Text Alert system. **This will be our primary and quickest way of contacting consumers.** To be placed on our list of recipients, copy the link below in your internet browser, based on the beginning letter of your last name. Fill in your name and cell phone number or email address and stay in the know. It's that easy! Using this service you can also reply to a text we send or send us a text at any time without having to call or email. Once you opt in please reply to the confirmation text with P (for participant). You can opt out at any time by replying LEAVE to the text.

last names A-D: <https://www.remind.com/join/leisuread>

last names E-L: <https://www.remind.com/join/leisureel>

last names M-R: <https://www.remind.com/join/leisuremr>

last names S-Z: <https://www.remind.com/join/leisuresz>

Inclement Weather Alert Procedure

Leisure activities that are scheduled when severe weather conditions are predicted may need to be cancelled or postponed. The Program Manager will monitor weather reports closely if serious weather conditions are likely to interfere with a scheduled activity as well as the safe travel to or from the activity. As soon as a decision can confidently be made regarding cancellation or postponement, an effort shall be made to contact all enrolled participants and/or their caregiver/guardian by using the following:

- **Remind Text Alert System** - for the **quickest way** to receive notices, register for up-to-the-minute alerts. Registration procedure is included in this newsletter
- Leisure Information Line 636-282-1422
- Email—check your inbox and spam/junk folder

Volunteers are what makes it work. Reward Yourself!

“ I am only one, but still I can do something.” --Helen Keller

Pony Bird is continuously seeking caring individuals who feel the need to reach out to persons with developmental disabilities. The success of our services relies heavily on the dedication of our staff, as well as volunteers and community support. We invite you to be part of this success as a volunteer. Help others better their lives. Your reward is their gratitude. It's a great feeling!

Volunteers need to be at least 18 years old and have the desire to work with individuals of all abilities. Volunteers do not need to be experts or professionals in the field of developmental disabilities. Enthusiasm and the desire to work with others is all that is necessary. New volunteers must complete an application. For the safety of our participants, a criminal records check and background screening is completed on all applicants. We seek to match each volunteer with a position that meets his or her interest.

For more information on eligibility and volunteer opportunities, please contact:

Terri Dallas

Leisure Services Program Manager

Phone: 636-282-1414

tmdallas@ponybird.org

Volunteer Opportunities Currently Available

Swim coach / coach assistant (March—May)

Track coach / coach assistant (April—May)

Bowling coach / coach assistant (September—April)

Basketball Unified Partners (15 and older)—see page 5

No experience required for any volunteer positions. Mentoring is provided. Coaches are required to complete online registration and online training through

TRANSPORTATION

Developmental Disability Advocates (formerly JCDDRDB) enables JC Transit services to be available for a limited number of Leisure Services activities for a minimal cost to participants. Seats are limited so call at the time of registration for activities.

JC Transit Phone Number

636-933-9380

You must register separately for Leisure activities and JC Transit reservations. See instructions on the registration form.

Activities with JC Transit Service



Saturday Bowling—February 8th (Quonset)
Movie Nite Events— February 21
Please note: OATS vans may be used as a back-up to the JC Transit vans

Leisure Services Transportation

Pick-Up Points

High Ridge - Farm and Home

Hwy 30 & Little Brennan

Herculaneum - Pony Bird building

1615 Vine School Rd

Arnold - Lot behind McDonalds

Hwy 141 & I-55

Look for the van icon to indicate that JC Transit services are available or look for pick-up times at pick-up points under the description of the activity. We reserve the right to cancel or change pick-up points when necessary. A minimum of 3 riders is required to guarantee a pick-up site.



Special Events

The fee for Special Events should accompany the registration form to guarantee reservation.

St. Louis Science Center —Omnimax / Lunch

The Blue Angels will take the audience soaring with the elite Flight Demonstration Squadron! It is a fitting tribute to the extraordinary teamwork, passion and pride of the hundreds of outstanding men and women of the Navy and Marine Corps who have the honor to serve in the Blue Angels Squadron. We will check out the other exhibits and then have lunch .

Date: February 15th
Time: Herky 9:00
Arnold 9:30
Fee: \$35.00 PLUS
LUNCH MONEY



Night to
*Shine*TM
TIM TEBOW FOUNDATION

Hosted by

St. Andrew's United Methodist Church

Friday, February 7th

They have reached the maximum number of guests for the event but volunteers are very much needed to make this night a success.

See page 6 for registration information.

Monthly Social Activities

MOVIE NITE

Come see it at the movies! Enjoy a night out with our group of movie buffs. Anyone is welcome. At this time, we are limiting our groups to 15 people so you will want to sign up soon.



DATE: Friday, February 21st
TIME: Meet at theater at 6:00 pm
PLACE: Arnold and Festus Theaters
FEE: \$20.00

JC Transit available.



DINNER CLUB

OLIVE GARDEN RESTAURANT

From never ending servings of freshly baked breadsticks and iconic salad, to the homemade soups, and sauces, there's something for everyone to enjoy. They are offering a 2 for \$25.00 special that you might want to share with a friend. Join us for a night of food and friendship.



HERKY/ARNOLD

Date: February 11th
Time: Herculaneum 5:15 pm
 Arnold 5:45 pm
Fee : \$12.00 plus money for dinner

HERKY/ARNOLD

Date: February 18th
Time: Herculaneum 5:15 pm
 Arnold 5:45 pm
Fee:\$12.00 plus money for dinner

BARNHART/HIGH RIDGE

Date : February 25th
Time: Barnhart 5:15 pm
 High Ridge 6:00 pm
Fee: \$12.00 + money for dinner

Based on recent price increases, we recommend you bring \$25.00 to cover dinner/drinks and tip.

SATURDAY BOWL

SATURDAY BOWLING IS BACK AT IMPERIAL AND QUONSET!

Dust off your bowling ball. Get ready to practice your skills for our upcoming tournaments, or just join us for a good time of casual bowling for fun. This is a great way to meet up with old friends and make new friends on the lanes. If you don't have a bowling ball or shoes, no worries. Shoes and ball rental are included in the price for your games.

IMPERIAL BOWL

Imperial MO

Date: Feb. 8th and Feb. 22nd

Time: 9:30 am—11:30 am

Cost : \$12.00 for 2 hours of bowling and shoe rental.

JCT is NOT Available For Imperial Bowl.



Everyone is charged a fee of \$12.00 for 2 hours of bowling. This includes your choices of 2 or 3 games plus shoe rental.

QUONSET LANES

Crystal City

Date: Feb. 8th and Feb. 22nd

Time: 2:00—4:00 pm

Cost : \$12.00 for 2 hours of bowling and shoe rental.

JC Transit will be available Feb . 8th only.



SPORTS

UNIFIED SPORTS

Unified Sports are designed to bring together equal numbers of athletes with and without intellectual disabilities on the same playing field. Special Olympics Unified® Sports could include bocce, bowling, basketball, flag football, golf, soccer, softball, tennis, and volleyball. Unified opportunities are offered through Pony Bird Leisure Services. We currently have over 20 Unified Partners in our program and growing. Contact Terri Dallas for more information. Make it fun for the whole family! Our current need is Unified basketball players for the 2025 season. If you are interested in joining our teams, contact us now. *"I never could have imagined how much joy this would bring to my life. Practices are a highlight of my week. The competition, comradery, teamwork, coaches, and so much laughter make hard days better". - Unified Partner, Megan Poole.*

BASKETBALL

If you like the game of basketball, consider joining one of the teams at Pony Bird for athletes 15 years or older. We offer training for all levels of abilities and have actively participated in Special Olympics competition for 40+ years. You are not required to compete if you are in it just for the fun of the sport. See attached flyer. We have well-trained volunteer coaches who love teaching the game and look for new players to join us each year. All competition rosters are full at this time but you are welcome to join us at practice to polish your skills and have a great time with friends.

Basketball Practice at Festus Elementary Gym

Wednesday Evenings 6:30 p.m.

\$25.00 sports fee

Scheduled practices every Wednesday through March 26th

2025 Tournament Schedule

Regional - February 16th, Cape Girardeau

State Indoor Games—Bowling/Basketball - March 29th—30th, St. Charles



Save the Date

The date has been set for the Jefferson County Track Meet. Once again Desoto High School will host the event. Mark your calendars. More information is coming .

Tuesday, April 22nd

Registration will be in March newsletter

SWIMMING

We're back at the pool and ready to make a splash!! It's time to dig out the suits and get ready for the 2025 swimming season. Our swimming sessions will begin in March and we practice every Friday with the option to compete in Special Olympics competition. All competitors must have proper Special Olympics registration completed. We are anxious to get the season started and hope you can join us.

Practice Schedule

\$25.00 Sports Fee

Beginning March 7th

Competition Schedule

Festus YMCA

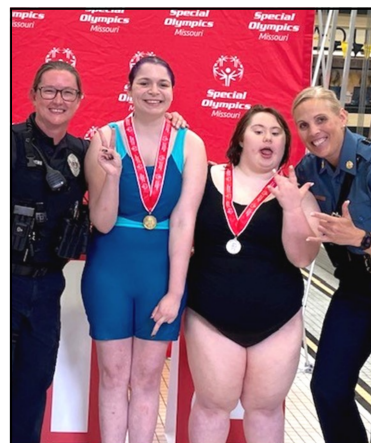
April 5 Local Meet / Pattonville HS

Friday Practices

May 3 Area Meet / Westminster Academy

4:15 & 5:00 sessions

**May 30– June 1
State Summer Games, Kirksville MO—Track/Swim**



AN EVENT YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS!

Coming February 7th, 2025

St. Andrews Methodist Church in DeSoto, MO will serve as one of many churches around the world that will host *Night to Shine*

simultaneously on Friday, February 7th,

sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation. Over 500 churches and thousands of volunteers in 50 states and 20 countries come together on one night to celebrate nearly 100,000 honored guests with special needs.

Every guest of Night to Shine enters this complimentary event on a red carpet complete with a warm welcome from a friendly crowd and paparazzi. Guests receive the royal treatment, including hair and makeup stations, shoe shining areas, limousine rides, corsages and boutonnieres, a catered dinner, karaoke, prom favors for each honored guest, a Respite Room and dinner for parents and caretakers, and, of course, a dance floor as well as other activities... all centered around the moment when each guest is crowned king or queen of the prom. If you would like to attend as a guest or volunteer for this event, you can now register online through St. Andrew's website, <https://standrewsumcdesoto.org/>. You may also contact the Leisure Services office for more details.

Volunteers Needed

Waitlist Only for Guests



2025 Night to Shine Registration is now open!

<https://standrewsumcdesoto.org/>

Event Date: Friday, Feb. 7th, 2025 6:00pm-9:00pm

Location: 650 Vineland School Rd, DeSoto MO 63020

Registration forms are also available at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church

1004 Rock Rd, DeSoto MO 63020 (Monday-Thurs 9am-2pm)

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

Below is the procedure we recommend you use to successfully register for Leisure Services activities.

1. Look over the newsletter and complete the registration form. Please avoid calling in your reservations.
 - You may print registration form and return by mail with your check to cover fees(please note in memo of check "Leisure Services Activities")
 - You may email your registration to leisure@ponybird.org and send check by mail to cover fees (please note in memo of check "Leisure Services Activities")
2. Please make checks payable to Pony Bird, Inc. and mail to Pony Bird , 1615 Vine School Rd, Herculaneum, MO 63048.
3. You will need to contact JCTransit to request a ride to activities indicating this service. Contact JCTransit at 933-9380. Remember that there are limited slots for transportation so set up you ride as soon as possible. You will also have the option to meet our group at pick-up points or event locations.
4. It is important that you cancel a reservation for any activity you are unable to attend, both with Leisure Services and JCTransit. A 24 hour cancellation notice is required to be considered for a refund of your activity fee, however, refunds cannot be guaranteed upon cancellation.
5. In case of INCLEMENT WEATHER, you may call our Event Information Line at 636-282-1422 or 933-3422 to check the status of an activity before heading out the door. All cancellations will be determined by 3:00 p.m. the day of the event. Sign up for Remind Text Alert for instant messages, instructions on page 3.

REGISTRATION FORM

You must register for all activities in advance. If you are not registered, you may be sent home due to staff/participant ratio.

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Nearest pick-up point: _____

Register for E-News Leisure Times. E-mail 1 _____ E-mail 2 _____

PLEASE RATE OUR SERVICE (circle your score with 5 being the best)

1 2 3 4 5

Suggestions/Comments _____

Please send registration form with payment to
Pony Bird, Inc.
 1615 Vine School Road
 Herculaneum MO 63048

TOTAL AMOUNT
ENCLOSED

\$ _____

- Annual Membership Fee** \$20.00
 Covers July 1—June 30th of the fiscal year.

MONTHLY EVENTS

Advance payment for monthly activity is welcome but not required.

- | | |
|---|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dinner Club Festus/Arnold— February 11th | \$12.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dinner Club Festus/Arnold—February 18th | \$12.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dinner Club H. Ridge— February 25th | \$12.00 |
|
 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Movie Night- Arnold / February 21st | \$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Movie Night— Festus / February 21st | \$20.00 |

BOWLING

All bowlers are charged \$12.00 for 2 hours of bowling

- | | |
|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Imperial—February 8th 9:30-11:30 | \$12.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quonset—February 8th 2:00-4:00 | \$12.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Imperial—February 22nd 9:30-11:30 | \$12.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quonset—February 22nd 2:00—4:00 | \$1200 |

SPECIAL EVENTS

Advance payment for special events is required.

- Science Center Omnimax/Lunch — Feb. 15th \$35.00
 Plus Lunch Money

VACATION OPPORTUNITIES

- Suggestion for Summer Vacation _____

A \$25.00 sports training fee covers incidental costs for training and competitions for each sport. This fee has increased slightly to support our FY25 budget. Our sports programs offer you 10-12 weeks of practice and competition opportunities.

SPORTS TRAINING FEE

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Basketball</i> | \$25.00 sports fee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Swimming</i> | \$25.00 sports fee |

Thanks to the dedication of our volunteers and in-kind donations of facilities, our sports training fee is minimal. Through our program, you have the opportunity to practice your sport with the guidance of our trained coaches and to compete in Special Olympics local and state competitions. Athletes wishing to compete in Special Olympics at the State level will be charged an assessment fee. You will also be charged an additional transportation fee to offset the cost of rental/charters. Assessments will be collected from interested athletes once qualification is determined. Assistance is available upon request from the Dick Bennett Memorial Fund. Awards of funds are based on individual need.



Pony Bird, Inc.

1615 Vine School Rd
Herculaneum ,MO 63048

Leisure Services office location

3655 Baptist Park Rd
Festus , MO 63028

Phone: 636-282-1414

Phone: 636-933-3764

Information Line:

636-282-1422

or 933-3422

Email:

leisure@ponybird.org

emergency contact

314-210-8760

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Visit us on the web:

www.ponybird.org/leisure

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Return Service Requested

**Dick Bennett
Memorial Fund**

If you are in need of financial assistance to attend Leisure activities, scholarship money is available through the Dick Bennett Memorial Fund. Dick was a long time director for our agency and attended many of our Leisure trips as a chaperone, enjoying the events as much as our participants. Memorial funds have been set up to help others experience that same joy. Your request will be kept confidential and the amount of assistance will be based on individual needs. Funds can be used to pay activity fees, transportation fees, or both depending on your need.

To keep this fund viable, continued contributions may be made, including memorials for loved ones. Please make checks to Pony Bird, Inc and note that it is for the Dick Bennett Memorial Fund. Thank you for your continued support.

**2025 SUMMER VACATION
..DO YOU HAVE A DREAM TRIP?
Make your suggestion for the 2025
Summer Vacation on the registration
form. An announcement is coming
soon!**

