



Pony Bird



The Leisure Times Activity Registration

March 2025

2025 Summer Vacation

There have been some really exciting trips suggested for Summer Vacations by our participants over the past 30+ years. We have enjoyed trips to Chicago, Memphis, Milwaukee, Wisconsin Dells, Hershey PA, Niagara Falls and many more. Some have been Cardinal Road trips and others have been educational and fun, or just plain FUN.

We always have a great time on our vacations and we have visited a lot of great places across the country. To join us on a vacation we ask that you actively participate in Leisure Services activities for a minimum of 1 year. This allows our staff and other participants to get to know you and it allows you to get to know us as well. When we travel out of town we have one chaperone for every 5 travelers. This assures everyone have a safe and enjoyable trip. Due to financial reasons, we are unable to support individuals on trips who require higher levels of support. However, special arrangements can be made for traveling with a personal assistant for an additional cost. And keep in mind that not everyone finds group travel suitable. You have to be patient with your roommates, flexible with changes, and willing to go along with a group itinerary. If you are

more of an individual traveler, our trips may not work for you.

We've been crunching numbers and researching travel costs to determine the next vacation destination. Keep checking future mailings for information on our 2025 vacation. We hope to make an announcement soon. Plans for vacations must meet final approval by Pony Bird, Inc. If you think a trip with Leisure Services sounds like fun, start saving your money!



**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

Remind Text Alert 2

Volunteers

Special Events 3

Dinner / Movies/Bowling 4

Sports 5

Night to Shine 6

Registration Form 7

Dick Bennett Scholarship 8

2025 Summer Vacation

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Swimming Practice Begins
March 7th
See Page 5

Art Demo
March 8th
See Page 3

St. Patrick's Day Dance
March 21st
See Page 3



Special Olympics Indoor Games
Bowling and Basketball
March 28th & 29th
St. Charles, MO

Track and Field
Preliminary Timings
Sunday, March 30
See enclosed flyer

**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)

Saturday Bowling assistants (September—April)

Volunteers to help at monthly events on a PRN basis

No experience required for any volunteer positions. Mentoring is provided. Coaches are required to complete online registration and online training through Special Olympics Missouri with direction from Leisure Services .

TRANSPORTATION

Developmental Disability Advocates (formerly JCDDRB) 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



Movie Nite Events— March 14th
Saturday Bowling—March 15th (Quonset)
St. Patrick's Day Dance—March 21st
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.

Art Demo Class

Get creative and enjoy time sitting behind an easel expressing yourself with a burst of colors. With the guidance of an art instructor, you can create your own painting and see how relaxing it can be. After class, you will share your talent with friends and enjoy a pizza lunch.



DATE : March 8th
Time: 10:00 a.m.— 1:00 p.m.
Fee: \$35.00
Herculaneum Pony Bird Building

St. Patrick's Day Dance

Join your friends to dance or just to listen to some great music provided by our DJ. This is a great time to meet up with old friends and meet new friends. We will serve a light snack and drinks. Who knows, you might even get to dance an Irish Jig. Don't forget your green!

DATE: March 21st
TIME: 7:00—9:30 PM
FEE: \$10.00
Herculaneum Pony Bird Building
1615 Vine School Road



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, March 14th
TIME: Meet at theater at 6:00 pm
PLACE: Arnold and Festus Theaters
FEE: \$20.00

JC Transit available.



DINNER CLUB

SYBERG'S RESTAURANT

Syberg's has everything you are looking for in one spot. Known for the best wings & pizza in town, they also offer other favorites on their menu. Enjoy the evening with good friends and good food.

HERKY/ARNOLD

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

HERKY/ARNOLD

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

BARNHART/HIGH RIDGE

Date : March 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: March 15th & 22nd

Time: 9:30—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: March 15th & 22nd

Time: 2:00—4:00 pm

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

JC Transit will be available March 15th 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.

BASKETBALL

Congratulations to our teams for their performance at the Area and Regional Basketball tournaments. They have been working hard at practice so they can shine in their games and it has worked so far. everyone played their hardest and strongest games and enjoyed this opportunity with their friends and family Good luck to those advancing to the state games. Look for those results in the next newsletter.

Special Olympics Area Basketball Tournament—January 18th

- Dragons – Full Court Unified – Silver Medals
- Heat – Half Court – Bronze Medals
- Magic – Half Court – Bronze Medals
- Flames – Half Court – Silver Medals
- Predators – Team Skills – 4th Place
- Raptors – Team Skills – Silver Medals
- Pirates—Team Skills— Gold Medals

Special Olympics Regional Basketball Tournament—February 16th

- Dragons – Full Court Unified – Gold Medals
- Heat – Half Court – Bronze Medals
- Magic – Half Court – Gold Medals
- Flames – Half Court – Silver Medals
- Predators – Team Skills – Bronze Medals
- Raptors – Team Skills – Silver Medals
- Pirates—Team Skills—4th Place

Track



DeSoto High School is welcoming our Special Olympics athletes for their 25th year hosting the Annual Jefferson County Track Meet. The High School Student Council is hard at work preparing for this years event. This is a big event with lots of celebrations, all making it a very special day for our athletes. A special thanks to DeSoto School District and their student body who makes the event possible, and to the DeSoto Amvets who are coming back again this year to feed our athletes, coaches and volunteers. We are also grateful for the Student Councils of other school districts who are providing buddies for our athletes as well. This is truly a community event, where everyone pulls together to give our athletes their best day of the year. Good luck to all athletes. This day is for you!!

Please register by March 15th. The registration form is included in this newsletter. The date for preliminary timings is Sunday, March 30th at Hillsboro High School Track. Athletes must attend to be included on the Pony Bird Leisure Services roster.

Preliminary Timings
 Sunday, March 30th
 1:00 pm
 Hillsboro High School
Jefferson Co Track Meet
 Tuesday, April 22nd
 DeSoto High School

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
 Beginning March 7th
 Festus YMCA
 Friday Practices
 4:15 & 5:00 sessions

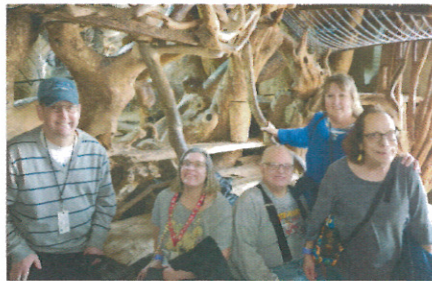
\$25.00 Sports Fee
Competition Schedule
 April 5 Local Meet / Pattonville HS
 May 3 Area Meet / Westminster Academy
 May 30– June 1
 State Summer Games, Kirksville MO—Track/Swim
 Columbia, MO



Congratulations to our basketball teams for their participation in the Special Olympics Area and Regional Tournaments!



Fun with leisure activities!



CITY MUSEUM AND SCIENCE CENTER

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– March 11th | \$12.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dinner Club Festus/Arnold—March 18th | \$12.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dinner Club H. Ridge– March 25th | \$12.00 |
|
 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Movie Night- Arnold / March 14th | \$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Movie Night– Festus / Marc h 14th | \$20.00 |

BOWLING

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

- | | |
|---|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Imperial—March 15th 9:30-11:30 | \$12.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quonset—March 15th 2:00-4:00 | \$12.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Imperial—March 22nd 9:30-11:30 | \$12.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quonset—March 22nd 2:00—4:00 | \$1200 |

SPECIAL EVENTS

Advance payment for special events is required.

- | | |
|---|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art Demo — March 8th | \$35.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> St. Patrick’s Day Dance—March 21st | \$10.00 |

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 training and competition opportunities.

SPORTS TRAINING FEE

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

Like us on Facebook



Visit us on the web:

www.ponybird.org/leisure

Pony Bird Board of Directors

Board Officers

Charles Wooten, Chairperson
Dennis Tesreau, Vice-Chairperson
Matt Ott, Treasurer
Amanda Mange, Secretary

Board Members

Susan Curfman
Kyle Drury
Ann Ferguson-Stephens
Paul Flynn
Sue Hockensmith
Ryan Johnston
Pam LaPlant
Connie Nash
Laura Hockensmith-Schlereth

President & CEO

Sara Sucharski

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?

Our vacation options require final approval of Pony Bird. An announcement is coming soon!



**Chattanooga/Atlanta
2024**