



Pony Bird

The Leisure Times Activity Registration

April 2025

2025 Summer Vacation Announcement

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.

This year's vacation offer is to **Gatlinburg, TN**. See the flyer attached for details on this trip. If you think a trip with Leisure Services sounds like fun, send in your deposit now to reserve a spot!

SMOKY MOUNTAINS

NATIONAL PARK

GATLINBURG, TENNESSEE



Track & Swim 2025 Seasons Begin



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

Special Olympic
Local Swim Meet, Pattonville
April 5th

St. Louis Battlehawks Game
Sunday April 13th

Grants Farm
April 26th

See Page 3

See Page 3

Jefferson Co. Special Olympics
Track Meet
DeSoto High School
April 22nd

Special Olympics
Spring Games—Track & Swim
St. Louis
May 3rd

St Louis Cardinals Game
Sunday May 4th

See Page 3

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—Friday April 18th
Saturday Bowling—Saturday April 12th
Quonset Lanes Only

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 Battlehawks

Join us as we watch the St. Louis Battlehawks XFL League take on the DC Defenders. Wear your blue and silver and get your voice ready for some chanting. KAW IS THE LAW!

There are only 16 tickets available for this game, so, you will want to get your registration in quickly.



DATE : Sunday April 13th
Time: 12:00 Herky 12:30 Arnold
Fee: \$40.00 plus money for concessions . CASH FREE * Small purse or clear purse only

Grant's Farm / Lunch

Hop on the tram and take a ride through the Deer Park where we will see a variety of four-legged friends. We will then be dropped off at the Tier Garden where we can explore, feed some goats and catch a show. We will enjoy lunch in the Courtyard before heading home.

DATE: Saturday April 26th
TIME: Herky 9:00 Arnold 9:30
FEE: \$35.00 + lunch money
CASH FREE VENUE
Debit or Credit Card Only



St. Louis Cardinals Game

Let's go root on our beloved Cardinals while they take on the Mets. We will all hope for a better season this year. The give away that day is a stylish "Cardinals Stuff Bag". It is also Star Wars day so we may run into some characters. MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU

DATE: Sunday May 4th
TIME: Herky: 10:30 Arnold: 11:00
FEE: \$50.00 + lunch money. Recommended \$25.00
CASH FREE VENUE
Debit or Credit Card Only



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, April 18th
TIME: Meet at theater at 6:00 pm
PLACE: Arnold and Festus Theaters
FEE: \$20.00

JC Transit available.



DINNER CLUB

Grand Slam Restaurant

We will start off baseball season by going to Grand Slam for dinner this month. They have big screens to catch a game on while we dine. They offer a good variety of burgers, wings, sandwiches, golden chicken strips, pizza and many other favorites.

HERKY/ARNOLD

Date: April 8th
Time: Herculaneum 5:15 pm
 Arnold 5:45 pm
Fee : \$12.00 plus money for dinner

HERKY/ARNOLD

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

BARNHART/HIGH RIDGE

Date : April 29th
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

Our bowling season is wrapping up so get in another bowling date before it's over. Our groups meet at Quonset Lanes and Imperial Bowl and look forward to hitting the lanes with friends. Our last date for bowling will be in May.

IMPERIAL BOWL

Imperial MO

Date: April 12th

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: April 12th

Time: 2:00—4:00 pm

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

JC Transit will be available April 12th



SPORTS

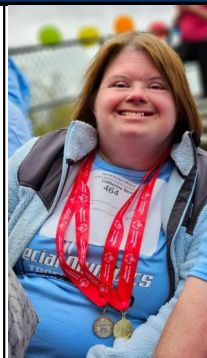
UNIFIED SPORTS

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 pickleball and softball players for the 2025 season. If you are interested in joining our teams, contact us now.

State Indoor Games

Good luck to our Pony Bird athletes who will be competing at the Special Olympics Indoor Games in St. Charles for the state bowling and basketball tournaments. They have been work hard since the season started in January and now ready to bring home state medals. The bowling tournament will be held at St. Charles Lanes on Friday, March 28th with basketball at Lindwood University on March 29th. Good luck to all. Results will be posted in our next newsletter.

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. Spectators are welcome. It's an amazing event to be a part of. Good luck to all athletes. This day is for you!!

Jefferson County Special Olympics Track Meet

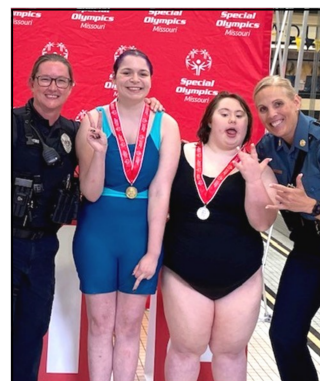
Tuesday, April 22nd
DeSoto High School
9:45 Opening Ceremonies
10:30 Competition Begins

Swimming

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



Pickleball

The pickleball season is just around the corner. We have outdoor courts reserved with practice beginning Monday, May 5th. This year we have access to courts in High Ridge and Festus to allow for growth in the program and reach out to individuals on the east side of the county. So think about where you might want to practice and look for more information in the next issue of Leisure Times. Hope to see you on the courts.

save
the
date



Special Olympics USA Games Selection Camp

REGISTRATION FOR SELECTION CAMP IS DUE MAY 1, 2025!!!

Every four years, the Special Olympics USA Games provide an opportunity for athletes to compete at the national level in summer sports. The 2026 USA Games will be in Minneapolis, Minn., June 20-26, 2026. To qualify for Team MO Magic, individuals need to receive a gold medal in their sport of choice during the year prior to selection camp, attend selection camp, and be selected to Team Missouri. Selection Camp will be held at Missouri Military Academy from June 22-27, 2025 and is free of charge. For more information, go to somo.org/camps/.

Pony Bird has had athletes attend USA Games, with some moving on to World Games. But to do so, you have to be committed to your sport and willing to work hard in training over the course of a year. But in end, it all pays off and you come home with not just medals but with a new sense of pride and an experience you will never forget. If you are interested in this opportunity, contact Terri Dallas for more details and see if you are a good fit for this amazing journey. This is offered to athletes, coaches and Unified Partners.

2026 USA GAMES

Minneapolis, Minn.

20-26 JUNE
2026



Applications will be available in the Fall of 2024. We will accept applications from athletes, Unified partners, coaches and volunteers.

To qualify, athletes and Unified partners must earn a gold medal in their respective individual or team* sport at one of the following state competitions: 2024 State Outdoor Games, 2025 State Indoor Games, 2025 State Pickleball Tournament or 2025 State Summer Games.

*Team sports have to qualify and apply as a team.

AVAILABLE SPORTS TO APPLY FOR*

*PLEASE NOTE: These are subject to change.

- Basketball
- Cheer
- Flag football
- Softball
- Volleyball
- Track and field (athletics)
- Bocce
- Bowling
- Golf
- Pickleball
- Powerlifting
- Swimming
- Tennis

More Info: somo.org/usagames

Questions? Email Shaffer@somo.org

Pony Bird Athletes and coaches who attended USA and World Games

1992 USA Games in Minneapolis—Teal Shipp

1996 USA Games in New Haven—Charlie Seabaugh / Cheryl Staggenborg

2003 World Game in Dublin, Ireland—Becca Tincknell, Michelle Beaman, Jane Howell, Sarah Surdyke

2006 USA Game in Ames IA— Jimmy Rennick, Joe Boyer

2010 USA Games in Lincoln, NE—Rob Kisse, Dallas Giffin, Powerlifting Coach Eddie Blaylock

2011 World Games in Athens, Greece—Brock Guseman

2014 USA Games in Princeton, NJ—Becca Tincknell, Melissa Buss, Powerlifting Coach Eddie Blaylock

2018 USA Games in Seattle WA—Paul Burnett, John Burnett, Chris Ingram, Becca Tincknell, Jaime Rosso, Bocce Coach Terri Dallas, Bocce Unified Partner Kathy Witmeyer

2022 USA Games in Orlando FL—Nick Boehm, Bocce Coach Terri Dallas

Are you our next USA champion?

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— April 8th | \$12.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dinner Club Festus/Arnold—April 15th | \$12.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dinner Club H. Ridge— April 29th | \$12.00 |

- | | |
|---|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Movie Night- Arnold / April 18th | \$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Movie Night— Festus / April 18th | \$20.00 |

BOWLING

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

- | | |
|---|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Imperial—April 12th 9:30-11:30 | \$12.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quonset—April 12th 2:00-4:00 | \$12.00 |

SPECIAL EVENTS

Advance payment for special events is required.

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Battlehawks Game —April 13th | \$40.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grants Farm— April 26th | \$35.00 |
| | + lunch money |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cardinals game— May 4th | \$50.00 |

VACATIONS

- | | |
|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gatlinburg, TN—July 5th—8th | \$925.00 |
|--|----------|

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

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

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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

Gatlinburg, TN

July 5th—8th

There's no place in the world quite like it. Offering exciting adventures at every turn. See the attached flyer for more details.

