



The Leisure Times Activity Registration



Summer Sports 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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May2025



Pony Bird Pickleball Is Growing

Due to the growing interest in our Pickleball program, Pony Bird will be offering training at 2 locations this year. We will continue practicing at the courts at High Ridge Civic Center while offering a second location at Jokerst Memorial Park in Festus MO. The Jefferson County Parks Department and Festus Parks Program supports us by providing courts to us free of charge. Courts are reserved every Monday night during our season to learn the skills needed to be seasoned players. For the most successful outcome for our athletes, this is a Unified sport. We are looking for individuals without a developmental disability to play alongside our athletes in doubles play. Parent, siblings, or friends make great Unified Partners while spending quality time together. It's great fun for everyone and really enhances the skills of both team members. If you are interested in joining our team, you will find information below. Please indicate your interest on the registration form on page 7 or email tmdallas@ponybird.org.

Practice Schedule/Interleague Play

High Ridge Civic Center
Jokerst Memorial Park—Festus
Monday Evenings
May 12th—June 30th
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

\$25.00 Sports Fee for athletes

Competition Available—if interested
St. Louis Special Olympics Area—TBA
Special Olympics Missouri Invitational
Saturday, August 9th
Columbia, MO

Practices will move to Thursdays for the month of July.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

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



St Louis Cardinals Game
Sunday May 4th

See Page 3

Hillsboro Flag Football Clinic
Hillsboro High School
Wednesday, May 7th
See attached flyer.

Pickleball Practice Begins
Monday, May 12th
High Ridge
Festus

State Summer Games
Kirksville MO
Track — Swim
May 30 — June 1

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

Flag Football coach / coach assistant (June—July)

Unified Partners—Flag Football, Pickleball, Softball, Tennis, Bocce

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 .

CPR/First Aid & Safety training through Pony Bird.

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



Movie Nite Events—Friday May 16th
Saturday Bowling—Saturday May 10th
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 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

* THIS EVENT IS FULL. WE CAN ADD YOU TO A WAIT LIST.



DATE : Sunday May 4th

Time: 10:30 Herky 11:00 Arnold

Fee: \$50.00 plus money for concessions . CASH FREE * Small purse or clear purse only

Flag Football Clinic
with Hillsboro Football Team

Hillsboro High School Football program is offering a football clinic. Pony Bird will be offering training in Flag Football to Special Olympics athletes and inviting Unified players to join us as well. This clinic is a great way to kick off our 2025 Flag Football program. Come enjoy the evening with us. It’s great fun!

DATE: Wednesday, May 7th
TIME: 6:00—7:30 p.m.
FEE: Free of charge

See attached flyer for more details



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, May 16th
TIME: Meet at theater at 6:00 pm
PLACE: Arnold and Festus Theaters
FEE: \$20.00

JC Transit available.



DINNER CLUB

P'Sghetti's



Join us for an evening of fun and food with good friends. They offer a variety of pastas, sandwiches and salads with good prices that are good for our budgets.

HERKY/ARNOLD

Date: May 13th
Time: Herculaneum 5:15 pm
Arnold 5:45 pm
Fee : \$12.00 plus money for dinner

HERKY/ARNOLD

Date: May 20th
Time: Herculaneum 5:15 pm
Arnold 5:45 pm
Fee:\$12.00 plus money for dinner

BARNHART/HIGH RIDGE

Date : May 27th
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

LEAVE NO PIN STANDING!



Congratulations to Dirk Williams for an awesome game at the State bowling tournament, with a personal best score of 109. What a great way to end his bowling season!

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

QUONSET LANES

Crystal City

Date: May 10th

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.

THANK YOU
DESOTO SCHOOL DISTRICT
& DHS STUDENT COUNCIL

2024 Spring Games
Track and Swimming

A special shout out goes out to DeSoto School District and the DHS Student Councils. For 25 Years, they have supported and advocated for individuals with disabilities by hosting the Special Olympics Track Meet. What began as an event for less than 100 athletes has grown into a competition for 500 or more. They have not only made this an awareness event in DeSoto but now have the support from Student Councils of all school districts in our county by encouraging advocacy in their schools as well and joining in on this event as volunteers. This day is special for so many, but what it all comes down to is making it special for our athletes. Everyone has a great time and our athletes come home with smiles that last a long time.

Good luck to our athletes who will compete at the Spring Games in St. Louis on May 3rd. 11 swimmers and 20 track athletes will compete and earn a spot for the 2025 State Summer Games at Truman State University May 30th - June 1st. After competing at local events, they will be ready to move on to qualifying competition where we know they will shine.



2025 Summer Sports Line-up

As we quickly finish up Spring sports, it's time to prepare for our summer sports seasons. At this time, we are taking registrations for Softball, Flag Football, & Pickleball. Look for bocce and tennis registration in next June. All sports can be adapted to suit different levels of abilities. You don't have to be an experienced player. Please sign up on this months activity registration form. It's important that you pre-register for these sports, as our enrollment is growing. We need to know the numbers participating to work out accommodations. Keep in mind that our rosters can fill up so early registration will ensure you a spot on the team for competitions. Area tournaments for these sports begin in July, with State games set for October 17th-19th, 2024.

Pickleball

2025 Practice Schedule

High Ridge Civic Center
Jokerst Memorial Park in Festus

Mondays 6:00—7:30 p.m.
May 12th - August 7th

Flag Football

2025 Practice Schedule

Hillsboro School District
Middle School Field

Thursdays 6:30—8:00 pm
June 5th—July 17th
Reconvene in September for tournament preparation.

Softball

2025 Practice Schedule

Sunset Park—Fields #2 & #3
Festus MO

Wednesdays 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
June 18th—July 31st
Reconvene in September for tournament preparation.

All summer sports offer Special Olympics competitions. Competing is optional but a current Special Olympics registration is required. Contact our office for instructions on registration. A \$25.00 fee is charged for each sport to be paid at time of registration.

We always welcome new volunteers to work with our athletes as a coach or an assistant. Contact our office if you are interested.



Pony Bird Athletes walk with a “Spring” in their step as they celebrate victory.



Our athletes are starting the Spring off right with victories in basketball, bowling and swimming. It’s been a busy month for over 50 Pony Bird competitors. On March 27th & 28th, teams participated in the Special Olympics State Indoor Games in St. Charles, MO for state tournaments in basketball and bowling. After months of practices and other qualifying tournaments, this completes the 2024-25 season for these athletes. As bowling and basketball comes to an end, we start up our Aquatics and Track seasons. In March, the Pony Bird swim team started practices at the Jefferson County YMCA and competed in their first tournament at Pattonville High School for a Special Olympics Local Swim Meet. As you can see in the photos attached, we have many medals and smiles on display not only on these days of competition but for weeks following as they show off their awards to family and friends. Next on the schedule is the Special Olympics Jefferson County Track Meet at DeSoto High School, where over 100 Pony Bird athletes will enjoy a day of competitions and good times. Join us in congratulating these amazing individuals and wish them luck as they move on to future events. And thank you to our amazing volunteer coaches and Unified Partners for their support and encouragement that drives our athletes to succeed.



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.

☐ Dinner Club Festus/Arnold— May 13th \$12.00

☐ Dinner Club Festus/Arnold—May 20th \$12.00

☐ Dinner Club H. Ridge— May 27 \$12.00

☐ Movie Night- Arnold / May 16th \$20.00

☐ Movie Night– Festus / May 16th \$20.00

BOWLING

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

☐ Quonset—May 10th 2:00-4:00 \$12.00

SPECIAL EVENTS

Advance payment for special events is required.

☐ Cardinals game— May 4th \$50.00

+ Credit/Debit Card for concessions

☐ Flag Football Clinic—May 7th No charge

VACATIONS

☐ Gatlinburg, TN—July 6th—9th \$925.00

☐ Trout Lodge Trip—August 23rd & 24th \$280.00

A \$25.00 sports training fee covers incidental costs for training and competitions for each sport.

SPORTS TRAINING FEE

☐ Pickleball \$25.00 sports fee

☐ Festus ☐ High Ridge

☐ Flag Football \$25.00 sports fee

☐ Softball \$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.

Special Olympics Missouri

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.



Pony Bird

**2025 SUMMER VACATION
Gatlinburg, TN
July 6th—9th**

There's no place in the world quite like it. Offering exciting adventures at every turn. See the attached flyer. This trip is full but we are taking names for the waitlist.



**2025 TROUT LODGE
Potosi, MO
August 23rd & 24th**

Enjoy the outdoors with boating, zip lines, horseback riding, archery, crafts and hayride. There is so much to do in a short time but we get it all in and have a blast. See attached flyer.

