

2026 Summer Vacation Announcement



Our vacation offer this year is a St. Louis Cardinals road trip to Cincinnati, with stops in Louisville and Lexington, KY. 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!

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. Chaperons do not stay in rooms with our travelers but have rooms close by for needed assistance. This assures everyone has a safe and enjoyable trip while still experiencing independent travel with friends. 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. But if you enjoy experiences with others, you will enjoy our trips.

BASEBALL & HORSE COUNTRY GREAT AMERICAN PASTIMES

- St. Louis Cardinals vs Cincinnati Reds
- Cincinnati, OH
- Louisville, KY
- Lexington, KY



**This trip is filling up.
Sign up soon!**
Payment plans are available

Celebrate Friends

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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UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Connect with Friends...
That's What We Do!



Grant's Farm/Lunch
Saturday May 9th
See page 3

Special Olympics Area Spring Games
Track/Swim Meet
Saturday May 2nd

Bocce and Outdoor Game Night
Friday May 22nd
See page 3

2027 Summer Vacation
Cardinal Road Trip/Horse Country
Register Now
Limited Slots available

St. Louis Cardinals Game
Sunday, June 7th
See page 3

Remind Email Alert System—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 Email 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 most watched email address and stay in the know. It's that easy! Using this service you can also reply or send us an email at any time. Once you opt in please reply to the confirmation with P (for participant). You can opt out at any time by unsubscribing.

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>

Although we can no longer use Remind to send text messages, you will want to update your Remind registration with your email to get our Remind email messages. Call our office for more information if needed.

Inclement Weather Alert Procedure

Leisure activities that are scheduled when severe weather conditions are predicted may need to be cancelled or postponed. Our staff 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 Email 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**
- **Text Messages—messages can now be sent from our new Ring Central phone server. You may received texts from 636-282-1414 or 636-282-1419. These are our Leisure Services office extensions. You may also send text messages to these contact numbers.**

Volunteers are what make it work. Reward Yourself!

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

Pony Bird is continuously seeking caring individuals who are interested in working with people 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

COACHES needed for sports listed below:

Flag Football	July through mid-October
Softball	June through mid-October

UNIFIED PARTNERS needed for sports below:

Pickleball	May through mid-August
Softball	July through mid-October
Tennis	July through mid-October
Bocce	July through mid-October
Flag Football	August through mid-October

VOLUNTEERS to help at monthly events on a PRN basis

No experience required for any volunteer positions. Training & 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 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 15th
Qonset Bowling—Saturday, May 16th
Bocce/Game Night —Friday, May 22nd
 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 to the side of 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.

Grant's Farm/Lunch

We will start with a tram ride through the deer park to the Tiergarten where we can pet or feed baby goats and see many other animals. There will be a Maifest going on too. A live brass band and dancers will be performing and they will be offering authentic German food and treats along with the traditional Grant's Farm food.



DATE: Saturday May 9th
 TIME: Herky 9:00 am Arnold 9:30 am
 FEE: \$35.00 + money for lunch
CASHLESS VENUE
CREDIT OR DEBIT CARDS ONLY

Bocce and Outdoor Games Night

Join us for a fun night of friendly competition of Bocce and other outdoor games. We will have some easy relay races, Cornhole, washer toss, and more. You will have a great time just hanging out with your friends.

Snacks and drinks will be served but please eat dinner before coming.

In case of rain, this will be moved indoors.



DATE : Friday May 22nd
 TIME: 6:30-9:00 pm
 FEE: - \$20.00
 WHERE: Pony Bird Building
 1615 Vine School Rd
 Herculaneum



St. Louis Cardinal's Game



TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME, TAKE ME OUT TO THE CROWD!

Baseball is back. Our beloved Cardinal's will take on the Cincinnati Reds. Let's go cheer on our new younger team. Win or lose, we always have a great time at the ballpark. Make sure you register early because our games usually fill up fast.



DATE : Sunday June 7th
 TIME: Herky 11:00 am Arnold 11:30 am
 FEE: - \$55.00 + money for lunch
CASHLESS VENUE
CREDIT OR DEBIT CARDS 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, May 15th
TIME: Meet at theater at 6:00 pm
PLACE: Arnold and Festus Theaters
FEE: \$20.00 (movie pass included)

JCTransit available.



DINNER CLUB

Bandanas

Smell that smoke ! Bandana's offers a great variety of different meats and sides to choose from. You can get a platter or a sandwich. They also have salads , chicken strips and nachos. You are sure to find something delicious while dining with your friends.



HERKY/ARNOLD

Date: May 12th
Time: Herky pick-up 5:15 pm
Arnold -Meet at Bandanas 5:45
Fee : \$12.00 +money for dinner

HERKY/ARNOLD

Date: May 19th
Time: Herky pick-up 5:15 pm
Arnold -meet at Bandanas 5:45
Fee : \$12.00 +money for dinner

BARNHART/HIGH RIDGE

Date: May 26th
Time: Herky 5:00 pm Barnhart. 5:15 pm
High Ridge 5:45 pm
Fee: \$12.00 plus money for dinner



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

SATURDAY BOWL

Quonset Lanes
2004 Turman Blvd
Crystal City, MO 63019

Taking a summer break from bowling so join us on the lanes one last time.

May 16th
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

\$15.00 for 2 hours or 3 games

JC Transit available on
May 16th



Fun With Friends



SPORTS

UNIFIED SPORTS

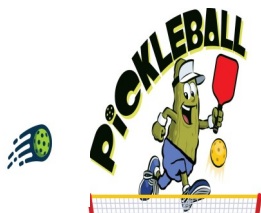
Unified Sports are designed to bring together equal numbers of athletes with and without intellectual disabilities on the same playing field. Special Olympics Unified® Sports could include bocce, bowling, basketball, flag football, golf, soccer, softball, tennis, and volleyball. Unified opportunities 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 2026 season. If you are interested in joining our teams, contact us now.

2026 Spring Games

Track and Swimming

Good luck to our athletes who will compete at the Special Olympics Spring Games in St. Louis on May 2.

15 swimmers and 16 track athletes will compete to earn a spot for the 2026 State Summer Games at Truman State University May 29th—31st. After competing at local events, they will be ready to move on to qualifying competition where we know they are sure to shine. Good luck to everyone!!



2026 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, Tennis & Pickleball. Look for bocce registration in June's newsletter. We are looking for Flag Football coaches before we can offer this sport. 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 month's 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 16th—18th.

Pickleball

2026 Practice Schedule

High Ridge Civic Center
or
Jokerst Memorial Park in Festus
Mondays 6:00—7:30 p.m.
June 1st—July 13th

Tennis

2026 Practice Schedule

Windsor High School
Thursdays 7:00—8:15 pm
June 18th - August 13th
Reconvene in September for State
tournament preparation.

Softball

2026 Practice Schedule

Sunset Park—Fields #2 & #3
Festus MO
Wednesdays 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
June 17th—July 30th
Reconvene in September for State
tournament preparation.

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

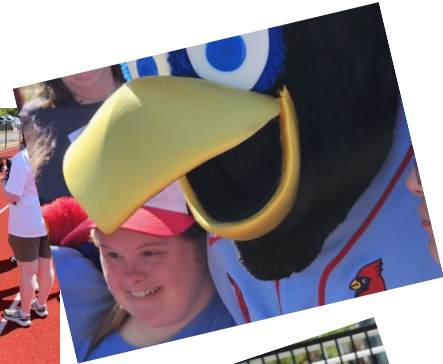
We always welcome new volunteers to work with our athletes as a coach or an assistant. Contact our office if you are interested.



Jefferson County Special Olympics Track Meet

Thank You DeSoto High School !

A special shout out to DeSoto School District and the DHS Student Councils. For 26 Years, they have supported and advocated for individuals with disabilities by hosting the Jefferson County Special Olympics Track Meet. What began as an event for less than 100 athletes has grown into a competition for 600 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 had a great time on April 21st and our athletes came home with smiles that will last a very long time.



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 JC *Transit* to request a ride to activities indicating this service. Contact JC Transit 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 JC Transit. 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 Fest/Arn— May 12th \$12.00
 Dinner Club Fest/Arn— May 19th \$12.00
 Dinner Club Barn/H.R – May 26th \$12.00

- Saturday Bowl - Quonset Lanes
 May 16th \$15.00

- Movie Night- Arnold / May 15th \$20.00
 Movie Night— Festus / May 15th \$20.00

SPECIAL EVENTS

Advance payment for special events is required.

- Grants Farm/Lunch —May 9th \$35.00
 Plus credit/debit card lunch
- Bocce—Outdoor Game Night—May 22nd \$20.00
- Cardinals Game—June 7th \$55.00
 Plus Debit/Credit Card for concessions

VACATIONS

- Cardinal Road Trip \$1050.00

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

Spring Sports

- Pickleball—Begins June 1st \$25.00 sports fee
 Softball—Begins June 17th \$25.00 sports fee
 Tennis—Begins June 18th \$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 may 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. Financial assistance for our sports programs 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 chaperon, 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.



2026 SUMMER VACATION
Cardinal Road Trip & Kentucky
Horse Country
August 15th—18th
Cheer on the Cardinals at the
Great American Ball Park in
Cincinnati, OH. Other
attractions are added to the trip
that you are sure to enjoy.
See enclosed flyer.

