



Frequently Asked Questions about Team Arkansas and 2022 USA Games

Team selection questions:

- 1. What does alternate mean?** *An alternate is an athlete that may be called to participate on Team Arkansas if there is an injury or other extenuating circumstance. Alternates will not practice with Team Arkansas unless they are called upon for the team. Alternates will know by February 15, 2022 if they have been asked to fill a vacated spot on Team Arkansas.*
- 2. Why did I not make the team?** *We are faced with the tough decision of picking only a limited number of participants and have made every effort to make the selection fair and an enjoyable experience for everyone. Though you did not make the team, we encourage you to continue to work hard during the upcoming season.*
- 3. How will I know when I am moved up from alternate status?** *If you are moved from the alternate list to Team Arkansas you will be notified directly by a coach of Team Arkansas or Special Olympics Arkansas staff. If we have not contacted you by February 15, 2022 you did not make 2022 Team Special Olympics Arkansas.*
- 4. Do I get to choose my sport from the alternate status?** *You will be notified about the vacant spot if one becomes available. It will be specific to a sport.*

General team questions:

- 5. When is the first practice?** *The first practice for Team Arkansas will be September 12th at Hendrix College, 1600 Washington Ave, Conway Arkansas. Specific instructions about where to report for practice will be provided by your coach.*
- 6. How often will we practice?** *Practices will be once a month from September 2021-June 2022. There will be a few overnight practices in 2022. The full schedule will be provided for you.*
- 7. Where is practice and will it be at the same location each time?** *For practice schedule email Irvin@specialolympicsarkansas.org*
- 8. Does my athlete have to travel with the team to and from USA GAMES?** *It is very important that Team Arkansas travel as a team. All athletes will be required to stay with the team for the duration of USA Games. This includes arrival to Orlando and departure back to Arkansas.*
- 9. Can I visit with my athlete during the week, e.g. take them out to eat dinner?** *The athletes will have a very strict and full schedule during USA Games. To respect their hard work and allow them to perform to their personal best please communicate directly with your athletes coach for a specific check out process. We do encourage you to attend each game for your athlete and cheer them on to success.*
- 10. How much does it cost for the athlete to participate?** *The entire experience for Team Arkansas will cost \$220,000. The individuals that make up Team Arkansas are not required to pay any money to participate. However, over the course of the year all members of Team Arkansas are encouraged to assist in all fundraising opportunities made available to the team.*

- 11. I was selected for a sport I don't want to compete in at competition. What are my options?** *All team members were chosen for their ability to excel in each sport. We are tasked with a specific quota from Special Olympics Arkansas. If you do not want to participate on the team you may resign from Team Arkansas. Please email resignations to Irvin@specialolympicsarkansas.org as soon as possible so your spot can be filled.*
- 12. Why do I have to raise money to be on the team?** *Making the team is a huge honor and you have worked very hard. The whole experience is very costly to Special Olympics Arkansas. As a part of your role on the team it is expected that everyone commit to supporting Team Arkansas through the fundraising efforts put forth over the course of the year.*
- 13. Do coaches and unified partners have to raise money?** *All members of the delegation for Team Arkansas are expected to assist in any fundraising efforts over the course of the next year.*
- 14. When will we travel for USA Games?** *Team flights will be June 3rd. Details will be provided during practices as we get closer to the competition.*
- 15. When will we return from USA Games?** *We will return to Arkansas on June 14th. Additional details will be provided during practices as we get closer to the competition.*
- 16. As a member of Team Arkansas what type of clothes do I need?** *Team Arkansas uniforms and travel gear will be provided. You will be provided a detailed packing list with items you will responsible for at the January team practice.*
- 17. How do I get to Team Arkansas USA Games practice?** *If you are having trouble arranging transportation to practices please email irvin@specialolympicsarkansas.org or call the SOAR office 501-771-0222 so that assistance can be provided.*
- 18. Am I getting new competition shoes?** *Providing shoes as a part of a uniform will be determined based on your sport.*
- 19. Are you going to pay my gas for practice?** *No, If you are having trouble arranging transportation to practices please email irvin@specialolympicsarkansas.org or call the SOAR office 501-771-0222 so that assistance can be provided.*
- 20. Who do I contact if I need to miss a practice?** *Please notify Irvin@specialolympicarkansas.org as soon as possible if you will need to miss a practice. It is required to explain any reason for a missed practice.*
- 21. What is the requirement for practice attendance?** *100% attendance is expected at all Team Arkansas practices. Any missed practices will be dealt with on a case by case basis.*
- 22. What if I move this year to another state can I still compete?** *You will be required to still make all team practices. If you are unable to attend the practices please resign from the team. Please email resignations to Irvin@specialolympicsarkansas.org as soon as possible so your spot can be filled.*
- 23. What if I cannot go due to a family emergency?** *If you are unable to attend the practices or USA Games for any reason please resign from the team. Please email resignations to Irvin@specialolympicsarkansas.org as soon as possible so your spot can be filled.*

Fans and Families Questions:

- 24. Who do I contact regarding Family and Fan travel information and hotel?** *Please send an email to Kara Newman Soarea5@aol.com.*
- 25. Can I fly with my athlete or stay with my athlete?** *Parent and Fan travel/overnight accommodations will be made separately. To receive the group rate for the Fans and families package please email Kara Newman Soarea5@aol.com*
- 26. Is it free for my family to go?** *There is a cost to Fans and Family travel. Please reach out to Kara Newman Soarea5@aol.com for more details on any travel packaging.*
- 27. Can my family raise money to go to see me compete?** *No, Fundraising under Special Olympics Arkansas' 501c3 is prohibited. This means the use of Special Olympics Arkansas logos, or referencing the brand in any way for family fundraisers is not allowed.*