

Girls on the Run: Lottery Registration FAQ

Why does Girls on the Run use a lottery system?

We use a lottery system to allow all children an equal opportunity to sign up and participate in Girls on the Run programming. As our GOTR teams have been recovering post-COVID, teams can fill up quickly. The lottery system gives all families the same opportunity to sign up instead of relying on a “first-come, first-served” system. The lottery system is used by the majority of GOTR councils nationwide and is recommended by Girls on the Run International.

How does the lottery registration period work?

Prior to the start of each season, Girls on the Run will advertise dates for the lottery registration period. Please see [our website](#) for lottery registration period dates. During the lottery period, registration is open to the public and parents can sign their child up for their preferred team. Cards will be charged at the time of registration. During this period, anyone who signs up will be entered into the lottery. For the best chance to get a spot on your desired team, register during this period.

Here's how lottery selection works:

- When the lottery registration period is over, the system will temporarily close for lottery selection to take place.
- If a team is **over capacity** at the time of lottery selection, kids will be randomly selected by the system and placed on the team. Remaining kids will be placed on the team's waitlist.
- If a team is **under capacity** at the time of lottery selection, all kids will be placed on the team.
- On the day of lottery selection, emails will be sent out indicating whether your child has been selected and placed on the team or placed on the team's waitlist by the end of the day.
- Payments are processed at the time of registration, and there is a fee associated with your registration. If your child is NOT selected, you will receive a refund.
- After the selection process, **registration will re-open** for teams with remaining space. Kids will be placed on a first-come, first-served basis until the team reaches capacity.

When will we know if our child gets a spot on the team?

If your child is selected in the lottery and is placed on the team, you will receive an email confirmation of your “registered” status on lottery selection day.

What if my child is not selected during the lottery?

If the team is over capacity and your child is not selected in the lottery process, they will be placed on the waitlist for that team. You will receive a refund for the registration fee. Should a spot become available, a child will be selected from the waitlist. Families on the waitlist may also choose to transfer their registration to a team with space available.

How does the lottery system affect kids who have participated in the past?

Though we appreciate the passion and loyalty of kids that have participated in prior seasons, we are also committed to ensuring that as many kids as possible experience Girls on the Run. Therefore, we do not offer preferential registration for GOTR alumni. The lottery system provides every family an equal opportunity to register.

How many kids are allowed on a team?

In order to ensure a quality program experience for kids and coaches, we limit the number of participants on each team. Kid to coach ratios must be maintained at every practice.

- For a team of 8-15 kids, 3 coaches are needed at every practice.
- For a team of 16-20 kids, 4 coaches are needed at every practice.
- Multiple teams are allowed at a site, as long as there are enough dedicated coaches for each team, and space adequate to safely host two separate teams.

What if there are more kids interested than spots available?

Our goal is to serve as many kids as possible with Girls on the Run programming each season. If a team is **over capacity** at the time of lottery selection, kids will be randomly picked by the system and placed on the team. Remaining kids will be placed on the team's waitlist. If a spot doesn't open up on the team before the season starts, there are two options for those on the waitlist:

- Switch to a different team with an open spot.
- Remain on the waitlist. If they remain on the waitlist, they'll have priority in the next season's lottery registration.

What about siblings?

Siblings are treated as a unit in the lottery selection process. Either both will be selected or neither will be selected.

If a lottery is used, why do you ask how many seasons my child has participated?

This information is collected on behalf of Girls on the Run International. It is used to calculate retention rates and for curriculum development purposes.

What is Pinwheel?

Pinwheel is the name of a third party software system Girls on the Run uses as a registration and people management tool. This tool is utilized for program registration, volunteer management, 5K event participation, and more. The Pinwheel system protects confidential information and will be used to conduct a fair and random lottery selection process.

Who do I contact with more questions about the lottery registration process?

We are happy to help! Feel free to reach out by calling or emailing our GOTR team at 319-214-0154 or info@girlsontheruniowa.org.

Updated July 2023