



Georgia State Games

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Tallahassee selected to host 2008 Southeast Sports Festival

Kennesaw, Ga. - Tallahassee, Florida's capital city, has been selected to host the 2008 Southeast Sports Festival, August 1-3, 2008. Hosting the biennial event is the Tallahassee Sports Council, a division of the Tallahassee Area Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Florida Sports Foundation, the official sports promotion and development organization of the state of Florida.

The second Southeast Sports Festival features 10 sports including team and individual sports. The finest amateur athletes in the Southeast have the chance to compete in baseball, basketball, flag football, lacrosse and soccer as well as fencing, gymnastics, taekwondo, tennis and track and field.

The 11 states eligible to participate in the Southeast Sports Festival are Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and West Virginia. Any athlete or team participating in their 2008 State Games event is eligible for the 2008 Southeast Sports Festival.

"Tallahassee is a perfect location for a multi-state regional event with exceptional athletic facilities and a variety of attractions and activities to provide athletes and their families," said Brian Hickey, Executive Director of the Tallahassee Sports Council. "Tallahassee has a proven track record of hosting sporting events including the Florida's Sunshine State Games, AAU Track and Field State Championships and many more."

The Southeast Sports Festival was created to give athletes of State Game programs a regional championship in which to compete and an opportunity to progress to a higher level of competition.

"When the Southeast Sports Festival Committee asked Florida to host the 2008 Festival, Tallahassee was the perfect choice, having run several successful Sunshine State Games and its central location in the region," said Stephen Rodriguez, the Director of Amateur Sports for the Florida Sports Foundation.

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The 2008 Southeast Sports Festival is expected to draw approximately 2,000 athletes to the area and provide Tallahassee with over \$1 million of economic impact, according to the Tallahassee Sports Council. The inaugural Southeast Sports Festival was held in July of 2006, in Shelby County, Ala. with over 1,200 athletes participating.

For information about the Southeast Sports Festival, check www.southeastsportsfestival.org.

The Georgia Games are modeled in the spirit of the Olympics, and provide Georgia's amateur athletes of all ages and skill levels the opportunity to compete in this open invitation, grassroots-style, state sports festival.

To obtain an entry form or to find more information on the Georgia Games Championships, visit the Georgia Games web site, www.georgiagames.org or contact the Georgia Games at 770-528-3580.

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