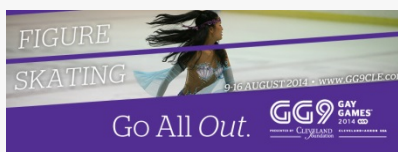




To read a PDF version of the February e-newsletter, [click here](#).

Engage and Share

Show the power of people who want playing fields that welcome all by sharing your support for the [2014 Gay Games presented by the Cleveland Foundation](#).

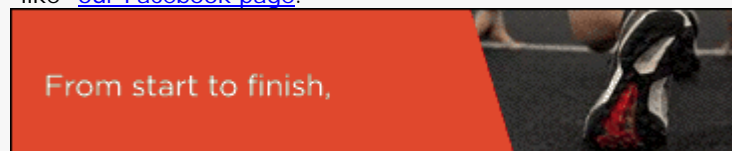


- [Download a Facebook cover image](#) for your event (or pick one of the host cities). There's a special #GoAllOut image for each and every sport and cultural event. Click [here](#).
- Share the [30-second version](#) (or the [60-second hometown version](#)) of the first broadcast commercial in Gay Games history.
- [Register](#) (if you haven't). Encourage your friends to join in the celebration too. Make plans to march into Opening Ceremony with the crowd (in the arena and around the world) cheering you on.
- Forward this email to your friends, invite them to join you, and have them subscribe to the latest news about the 2014 Gay Games.

We all know that inclusivity in sports is not an automatic. Just this week, the [Russian LGBT Sport Federation](#) bravely went ahead with its Open Games in Moscow despite government and business cancellations. And in the United States, future NFL player Michael Sam and current NBA player Jason Collins still make headlines for being "firsts."

It's time to show, share and visually demonstrate the power of the people who believe inclusivity is the only way to go on the playing field and elsewhere.

To read the latest from the 2014 Gay Games, make sure to "like" [our Facebook page](#).



February 2014
GAMES WEEK:
9-16 August 2014

SPORTS & CULTURE

Click on event for more information.

- [Badminton](#)
- [Band](#)
- [Basketball](#)
- [Beach Volleyball](#)
- [Bodybuilding](#)
- [Bowling](#)
- [Cheer](#)
- [Chorus](#)
- [Cycling](#)
- [DanceSport](#)
- [Darts](#)
- [Diving](#)
- [Figure Skating](#)
- [Flag Football](#)
- [Golf](#)
- [Ice Hockey](#)
- [Marathon/Half-Marathon](#)
- [Martial Arts](#)
- [Open Water Swim](#)
- [Pool \(Billiards\)](#)
- [Powerlifting](#)
- [Racquetball](#)
- [Road Races \(5K & 10K\)](#)
- [Rock Climbing \(Sport Climbing\)](#)
- [Rowing](#)

Event Spotlight: Flag Football

Recreational and competitive [Flag Football](#) players will take to Barton-Bradley Recreational Field in Greater Cleveland. Recreational players will have 7-on-7 games, while competitive players will have 8-on-8 matches. Divisions include women's and mixed/men's. To read more about the event, competition specifics, etc., click [here](#).

Gay Games private shuttles will be available to transport players from a central downtown Cleveland point to the suburban field. On-site parking is free. Spectators are welcome to attend at no cost.

In a past e-newsletter, Flag Football player [Kelly Scheall](#), who is helping organize the sporting event at Gay Games, shared her story. Missed it? Read it [now](#).

To register your team to participate in [Flag Football](#), click [here](#).

Want to learn more about incentives for team captains and additional team discounts? Email Gay Games 9 Champions Coordinator [Tony Smith](#) for more information.



- [Sailing](#)
- [Soccer \(Football\)](#)
- [Softball](#)
- [Squash](#)
- [Swimming](#)
- [Synchronized Swimming](#)
- [Table Tennis](#)
- [Tennis](#)
- [Track and Field](#)
- [Triathlon](#)
- [Volleyball](#)
- [Water Polo](#)
- [Wrestling](#)

[Games Week Schedule](#)

Participant Spotlight: David Smith

Six-time swimming medalist **David Smith** shared his story with [Outsports.com](#). He personifies Participation. Inclusion. Personal Best™. "It's not about the destination, it's about the journey," he writes. "My journey toward better physical and mental fitness has never been about aesthetics; it has always been about accomplishing more and constantly challenging to better myself and the world around me."

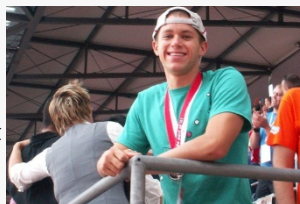
Read more from David and learn how the Gay Games have become an important part of his journey. Click [here](#) for the full story.

Special thanks to [Outsports.com](#), a media partner of the 2014 Gay Games.

SHARE YOUR STORY

Whether you're a first-time participant or someone who's competed in every Gay Games, we want to share your story and inspire others. Use the "Share Your Story" tab on our [Facebook page](#) or email us at info@GG9CLE.com.

If you are interested in sharing your story with the media, let us know. GLAAD, a national Gay Games 9 partner, is eager to help participants learn how to tell their story and work with the media.



Spotlight on Cleveland+Akron

Fab Four's permanent stay in Cleveland

Don't miss the most comprehensive display of Beatles materials at the [Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum](#).

A great relationship between the Rock Hall and Yoko Ono led to many of John Lennon's items plus the Rock Hall worked with Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr. The never-before-seen items of the 70-plus artifacts include: Harrison's striped suit from '66 US tour; Lennon's black coat worn in Help! and McCartney's handwritten arrangement for "Birthday." The exhibit is part of the permanent collection.

For more information on Cleveland-area attractions, visit www.positivelycleveland.com.

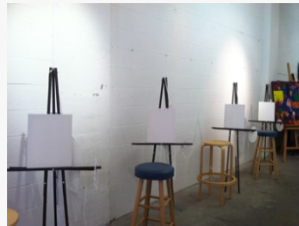
Surprise Paintings by Rachel Gentner

In Akron, see if you are the next Pablo Picasso at the Palladian Palette.

Palladian Palette is BYOB painting bar owned by local Rachel Gentner.

Throughout the year, Rachel shows guests how to paint her new one of a kind painting. To read more about the [Palladian Palette](#) and upcoming events in [Akron](#).

For more information on Akron-area attractions, visit www.visitakron-summit.org.



Plan Your Visit:

Register, reserve lodging and more

REGISTER TODAY

Have you registered to participate in the [2014 Gay Games presented by the Cleveland Foundation](#)? Register [here](#).

General registration is required of all participants and enables you to march in opening and closing ceremony, receive the Official 2014 Gay Games Program, access to public and GG9-provided transportation and a participant medal. General Registration is open through 31 May 2014.

Once you have completed general registration, you can complete registration for your particular event(s).

Click [here](#) to register today.

BOOK A ROOM

Have you reserved your lodging? The Gay Games has negotiated special rates that are the lowest available for 30-plus hotels in Cleveland+Akron. Make your reservations (no payment needed today) through this [exclusive Gay Games lodging site](#).

The [Gay Games website](#) also has a helpful drop-down menu so you can pick your event and see the distance of each hotel to your event venue (some event venues have not been finalized but all are expected to be completed this fall.)

Please note that payment is not due for your hotel reservation through this site until July 2014.

[Marriott](#) is the official lodging sponsor of the 2014 Gay Games presented by the Cleveland Foundation.

The [Renaissance Cleveland](#) is the



official host hotel.

Limited dormitory lodging reservations can be made beginning 7 March. Visit [Plan Your Visit](#) at www.GG9CLE.com for the latest information.

PLAN AIR TRAVEL

Cleveland+Akron offers two destination airports ([Cleveland Hopkins International](#) and [Akron-Canton Regional Airport](#)) with easy and affordable access from hundreds of cities in the United States and one-stop connections for international travelers.

UNITED Airlines is the exclusive airline partner for [the 2014 Gay Games presented by the Cleveland Foundation](#). It serves both airports in the region. It offers a discount code to Gay Games registrants. The code is emailed to all participants upon completion of general registration.



Volunteer Spotlight: Kyle Agnew

Born and raised in Cleveland, [Kyle Agnew](#) will be a volunteer at the 2014 Gay Games and is excited to be a part of such an "epic" event. "I'm looking forward to contributing and making a difference in Cleveland. I'm looking forward to meeting the athletes from all over the world and hearing their stories," he says.

To read more about what Kyle has to say, click [here](#).

No matter where you live, you can volunteer now to help the 2014 Gay Games. Be a Gay Games Champion, an advocate in your city, region or event who promotes and helps get the word out about the Gay Games. To join the program, which includes some nice thank-you's, visit [here](#).

To volunteer during Games Week, click [here](#) to sign up.

Schedules have begun to be posted online so registered volunteers can start signing up for shifts. (Participants in the Games also can be volunteers at the Games ... volunteers can select their own schedules.) There is no charge for volunteering.

Merchandise and Team Uniforms

Want to purchase the cool blue Gay Games 9 shirt with each event listed to form the "9" on the back? Pins and sweatshirts also available. Visit www.GayGames9.com today.

Planning for a team uniform to wear marching into Opening Ceremony? The Federation of Gay Games, Nike and Lids Team Sports are offering a unique program with savings off retail prices. Click [here](#) for more information.

LGBTQ Cultural Competence Training from The Diversity Center

Northeast Ohio organizations have a unique opportunity to improve their awareness and sensitivity to LGBT issues through a new program developed by [The Diversity Center of Northeast](#)

[Ohio](#) and supported by the 2014 Gay Games presented by the Cleveland Foundation.

For more information on the program, please contact Christen DuVernay at The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio at cduvernay@diversitycenterneo.org or +1.216.752.3000.

Individual donors, business sponsors, and others are encouraged to support the 2014 Gay Games through financial contributions as well as their support of the 2014 sponsors and civic funders.

To donate, click [here](#).

To learn more about sponsorship opportunities, visit this [page](#).

And please support and say thanks to all sponsors of the 2014 Gay Games presented by the Cleveland Foundation, including the following platinum-level and higher supporters:

[Cleveland Foundation](#)

[Gay Community Endowment Fund of Akron Community Foundation](#)

[Eaton](#)

[Ernst & Young](#)

[Human Rights Campaign](#)

[Marriott](#)

[University Hospitals](#)

To see all our sponsors, click [here](#).

CIVIC FUNDERS

A special acknowledgement and appreciation of the [civic funders](#) of the 2014 Gay Games, including:

[City of Cleveland](#)

[Positively Cleveland](#)

[Cuyahoga County](#)

[City of Akron](#)

[Akron/Summit Convention & Visitors Bureau](#)

[Summit County](#)

Social Talk

Be part of the Gay Games buzz on social media. Special opportunities to save, engage and connect with your fellow Gay Games participants are posted weekly.

Like the 2014 Gay Games

on **Facebook** at www.facebook.com/GayGamesCleveland and

follow us on **Twitter** [@GG9Cleveland](https://twitter.com/GG9Cleveland).

#Go All Out.

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