

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. With tremendous growth of Girls on the Run, 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. During this period, anyone who signs up will be entered into the lottery. For best chance to get a spot on your desired team, register anytime 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 picked 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.
- At the time of lottery selection, emails will be sent by the end of the day indicating whether your child has been selected and placed on the team, or placed on the team's waitlist.
- Payments are processed **only if** your child is placed on the team and there is a fee associated with your registration.
- After the selection process, **registration will re-open** for teams with remaining space. Kids will be placed on a first come, first serve 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 lottery and is placed on the team, you will receive an email confirmation of your “**registered**” status on the day of 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. Should a spot become available, a child will be selected from the waitlist. Credit cards will not be charged unless your child is officially added to the team. Kids are welcome to sign-up for other teams, if space is 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 standard team of 8-15 kids, 3 three coaches are needed at every practice
- For a large 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.

Why are team sizes limited?

In order to ensure a quality program experience for kids and coaches, we limit the number of participants on each team. The Girls on the Run curriculum is intentionally designed to be delivered in small groups. A standard team size is 8-15 kids/team. Each lesson has a topical theme, and addresses key learning outcomes. With the theme in mind, participants are asked to reflect individually, discuss as a group and practice new skills. Experience has shown that with more than 15 kids, it is difficult to give each child the time and attention needed to achieve learning outcomes. Just like too large a classroom, too big a team negatively impacts the efficacy of our program.

Teams may be approved to grow to a 'large' team size (16-20 kids/team), if there are enough experienced coaches present at every practice to mentor and lead the kids on the team. Increasing the kid to coach ratio will help ensure positive dynamics are established and quality programming is delivered to a large group.

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 waitlist forms with more than 6 kids, we make every effort to add an additional team at the site. Creating a second team requires the recruitment of additional volunteers who have interest and availability to coach. A site can host multiple teams (concurrently, or on different days) as long as there is adequate safe space and enough dedicated coaches per team. All coaches complete an application, background check & coach training prior to the start of the season.

What about siblings?

In order to keep the lottery truly random, siblings are treated as individuals in the lottery selection process. If one sibling is selected and the other is not, the family may exchange the registration to the other child, if desired.

If it's truly random, 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, 608-831-4687. Director of Programming, annie.taff@girlsontherun.org