

# Gathering of Champions

## FAQs

### **Do I need to pre-register for one of the 10 ceremony times?**

Pre-registration is not required but it is highly recommended because it ensures enough space in the ceremony of your choice for the All-Star and his/her guests. Having a guaranteed space in a ceremony allows your group to plan your day at the Mall of America. Academic All-Stars and their guests may attend on Aug. 6 and choose from a ceremony time with available space. A separate walk-in registration table will be set up for those who are not pre-registered. Only those with Gathering of Champions colored wristbands will be admitted into the ceremonies. Please note, ceremonies do fill, so pre-registering today will help you attend the ceremony of your choice.

### **I want to pre-register for the Gathering of Champions and I have more than one All-Star. How do I make sure they receive their All-Star recognition?**

When pre-registering for the Gathering of Champions online, register in the name of one of the All-Stars. Make sure to select “Student All-Star” from the title drop-down menu. On the second page, where you will enter other people in your group, fill in the name of any other All-Stars and select “Student All-Star” from the title menu. Only use this designation for nominated All-Stars. This will tell us the number of All-Stars in your group.

### **I didn’t receive an email confirmation of my pre-registration, what do I do?**

If you do not receive an email confirmation, please contact us: [cae@mncae.org](mailto:cae@mncae.org) or 507-389-2461.

### **I need to change my ceremony time, how do I do this?**

If you need to change your time, please register for the new time you wish to attend. Contact us immediately to let us know of your change in time. We will then delete your reservation from the time you no longer wish to attend – this will open up space in that ceremony for other All-Stars and their families.

### **I would like to pre-register for a ceremony, but I’m not sure of the exact number of people and/or names of people attending. What should I do?**

If you are not sure of the exact number of people who will be attending with your group, reserve enough space for all who might attend. Fill in the names of the people you know will be attending with your group. Fill in “TBA” in all spaces that you still need to confirm – this will tell us that you may need these spots and haven’t mistakenly reserved too much space. Once you know the exact number and names of your attendees, contact us so we can fill in the appropriate information. If you no longer need all of the space you’ve reserved, please let us know right away, as shows fill up quickly and we can then make that space available to other All-Stars and their families.

### **I have pre-registered for the Gathering of Champions and need to make changes to our group, what do I do?**

Please contact us and let us know what changes need to be made. If you wish to add more attendees to your group, please note that additional space may not be available as shows fill up quickly. *All changes must be made by July 31 – no changes will be accepted after this date.*

### **Who should I bring to the Gathering of Champions with my All-Star?**

Who you wish to bring with your group is completely up to you. There are no restrictions. People typically bring parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends and teachers.

### **What time do I need to arrive at the Mall of America on Aug. 6?**

We recommend that you arrive 30-45 minutes prior to your ceremony time. When you arrive you will need to check-in and receive the designated wristbands for your ceremony. People will begin to line up outside the ballroom as soon as the attendees from the previous show have entered at the top of each hour. Seats are available on a first come, first served basis once inside The Great Room. The capacity for The Great Room is 400; however, there are not 400 seats available, so some guests will view the ceremony standing.

You may check-in at any time after 9 a.m. to receive your wristbands and All-Star gift bag with discount coupons. This will allow you to plan your day and enjoy the many features of the Mall of America and Nickelodeon Universe® before your scheduled ceremony.

### **I have a baby/infant. Is there space for a stroller inside The Great Room?**

Yes, there is adequate space inside The Great Room for strollers and carriers. There is space along the sides of the seating area to place strollers out of the way. Chairs are moveable if you wish to pull a stroller up next to your seat.

**Is The Great Room wheelchair accessible? Do I need to request special seating arrangements?**

The Great Room is wheelchair accessible. Special seating is not required. All chairs are moveable and can be placed wherever is convenient for your guests. If you have guests in your group in a wheelchair, please notify us at check-in for assistance in waiting in line outside The Great Room. The holding area gets congested.

**My All-Star is in a wheelchair, will he/she be able to cross the stage with the other All-Stars?**

Yes. Students unable to use the stairs to the stage will be escorted via the ramp at the back of the stage. Please notify us prior to Aug. 6 to let us know you will need an escort through this entrance. All-Stars will remain with their guests until the end of the ceremony when students receive their certificates. At this time, CAE staff will escort the student to the stage.

**Is there a dress code for the ceremony?**

No, there is no dress code for the Gathering of Champions. Most All-Stars and guests dress casual to business casual, as they plan to enjoy the Mall of America and Nickelodeon Universe® before and/or after the show.

**I am unable to attend the Gathering of Champions on Aug. 6. Can my All-Star still receive his/her certificate?**

Yes. If you are unable to attend the Gathering of Champions, please contact us. We will mail the certificate of achievement and other memorabilia after the event. T-shirts may be purchased online at [www.mncae.org](http://www.mncae.org) – click on “Gathering of Champions.”

**If I have questions the day of the event, whom do I contact?**

Please know that our entire staff will be working at the event and may not be reachable by phone. Please do not email us if you have an immediate concern, as we will not have access to email during the day. If you are calling for additional seats or cancellations, please know that we appreciate your call, however we will be unable to process any phone or email requests the day of the event. Walk-in registrations may be available for sessions that are not filled.

**Why was my student chosen as an Academic All-Star?**

Minnesota students in grades K-12 are nominated by their teachers, principals and academic coaches with the suggested criteria:

- Students who are consistent top academic performers
- Students who have shown significant improvement in achievement or have overcome barriers to academic achievement
- Students who are local, regional or state champions in a MN Academic League Council endorsed event. The names of endorsed programs are found in the *Reach for the Stars* catalogue, which is available online at [www.mncae.org](http://www.mncae.org) – click on “Reach for the Stars.”