



Girls on the Run of Southeastern Michigan Lottery System Information and FAQ's

1. Why did you move to a lottery system?

While the first-come, first-served approach has worked well in the past, our new system allows all participants the same opportunity to participate within our 2 week lottery registration period, regardless of when they hear about and register for the Girls on the Run season. This is the most equitable system which provides every family with an equal opportunity to register and equal access to participate in the program. The switch is based on feedback from families. This is a system that is already used by many of the 225 GOTR Councils Nationwide and it is considered a best practice by Girls on the Run International.

2. What about girls that have participated in the past? It's not fair to them.

We appreciate the passion and loyalty of participants who have had the opportunity to participate in prior seasons and we are also committed to ensuring that as many girls as possible experience Girls on the Run. We therefore do not offer preferential registration for GOTR alumni. We do not anticipate turning any child away and we will do our best to accommodate every child who registers, adding coaches to support a larger team where necessary. This system is helpful to us as it lets us know early on where the need for coaches is most so that we can focus on identifying volunteers for that area.

3. What if my child is not selected?

Again, we do not anticipate turning any kids away and we will do our best to accommodate every child who registers, adding coaches to support a larger team, or an additional team where necessary. In the rare circumstance that there are insufficient spots on a team or too few coaches, we can add your child to the wait list, and move your child onto the team should a spot open, or you may choose to contact us and let us know you'd like your child removed and any registration fees paid refunded.

4. If it's truly random, why do you ask how many seasons your daughter has participated?

This is information that is collected by Girls on the Run International for their records. It is to calculate retention rates and for curriculum development purposes. This information was captured in the first come first served system as well.

5. **Is the lottery for everyone or only when the team is full?**
Every individual who registers will receive notification that they are in "lottery status". If more children are registered than there are spots available on a team, the lottery will be run for that team. Additional children will then move to the "wait list" and if/when a spot opens, individuals will be moved onto the team. If there enough registered children for a second team, we will try our best to secure additional coaches to avoid any kids on the wait list status.
6. **What is Pinwheel?**
Pinwheel is the third-party software system that we are using for registration. It protects every individual's confidential information.
7. **When will we know if our child gets a spot on the team?**
The lottery will be run on January 30th. You will receive confirmation of your registration status by email no later than February 1st.
8. **What is the team limit at each site and why have a limit?**
Each team has a set limit of participants, between 15-20 children, based on the number and experience of the volunteer coaches. This policy is in place per Girls on the Run International. The curriculum is designed for this number of participants, and this helps to ensure a quality experience for both the children as well as the coaches. Too large of a team negatively impacts the efficacy of the program.
9. **How will I know if my child is moved from the waitlist after the initial lottery?**
Should a spot become available by another child dropping, we will move a participant from the waitlist onto the team. If we are able to identify enough coaches to open several spots on the team, we'll move the next group of children from the waitlist and onto a second (or third) team at the same site.
10. **Why am I being charged if my child is on the waitlist and not guaranteed a spot on the team?**
Typically, we have not had waitlists or been unable to move children onto teams in the past. To expediate the process once the lottery is run, and guarantee spots for those chosen in the lottery, it is most efficient to have the payment already processed. If a child is not chosen for the lottery, we will ask the parent/caregiver if they'd like their child to stay on the 'waitlist', or if they'd like their child removed and an immediate refund of all fees given.
11. **When will the teams be "finalized"?**
It's difficult to state exactly when team rosters will be finalized. Often, until the start of the season, there are roster changes that allow movement on the waitlist. We allow cancellations, without refunds after the start of the season, and waitlist movement through the first week of the season. The good news is that until that time, there is a chance for waitlist movement.
12. **What if I'm registering siblings, could one make it onto the team and the other not?**
No. When we run the lottery, we look for siblings and run any that are registered together so that either both make it onto the team, or neither do.
13. **What if I'm coaching and I register my child to participate on my team, might they not make it on?**
We prioritize the children of our volunteer coaches and site leaders, and automatically move

them onto the team prior to running the lottery as a show gratitude for volunteering with us. If you, or someone you know is interested in coaching with us, please see our [COACH](#) page on the Girls on the Run of Southeastern Michigan website.

14. **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 Girls on the Run office at info@girlsontherunsemi.org or 734.712.5640