

Save the Date

SERC-NAHRO MLK Basketball Tournament & Cheer Competition



WHAT:
SERC-NAHRO MLK Basketball
Tournament & Cheer Competition

WHEN:
January 17th-19th, 2025

WHERE:
Columbia, South Carolina
Venue & Tournament Schedule:
COMING SOON!

GET READY! GET READY! GET READY!

Columbia Housing is hosting the 2025 Southeastern Regional Council (SERC) Martin Luther King, Jr. Basketball Tournament and Cheer Competition. We're challenging SERC Nation to bring out their best teams and squads for a CH tournament and cheer experience!

#SERCMLKtheCHWAY



SERC is Comprised of Housing Authorities from 10 States:
Alabama • Florida • Georgia • Kentucky • Mississippi • North Carolina
South Carolina • Tennessee • Virginia • West Virginia

ColumbiaHousingSC.org

SERC MLK Planning Committee
Columbia Housing
1917 Harden St.
Columbia, SC 29204

Email: SERCMLKtheCHway
Website: www.columbiahousing.org/SERCMLKtheCHway
Social handle: SERCMLKtheCHway



Greetings!

We are excited to invite your Housing Authority to participate in the 2025 SERC MLK Weekend. We are hoping that you will decide to travel from your state to South Carolina's Capitol City – Columbia during the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday with your youth, families, coaches, and staff to this highly anticipated weekend of competitive sports, educational opportunities, and cultural experiences.

General Information:

- SERC MLK Basketball & Cheer Tournament (SERC MLK Weekend)
January 17 - 19, 2025
Columbia, SC

This registration packet includes:

- General Rules for Participation
- Cheer Competition Rules
- Official Entry Form
- Certification Of Academic/Athletic/Resident Eligibility
- Hud Youth Sports Code of Ethics for Athletes
- Hud Youth Sports Code of Ethics for Coaches/Coordinators/Chaperones
- Hotel Information
- Document Checklist
- SERC MLK Weekend Committee Contact Information

Please note that we're working to ensure that your experience is indeed a great one. Stay in the know and get regular updates by following the event on social media [@SERCMLKWeekend](https://twitter.com/SERCMLKWeekend) and visiting SERCMLKWeekend.com.

Sincerely,

Yvonda A. Bean, CEO Columbia Housing
Chair, SERC MLK Weekend Committee
Columbia Housing

HOTEL INFORMATION

All participants will be responsible for booking their own rooms for teams, staff, and parents. The below list of hotels has been provided at a discounted rate. Please mention "SERC MLK Weekend Group" when booking your rooms.

All hotels are located in or near the downtown Columbia area and are convenient to the tournament event sites.

Hotel	Address	Contact	Rate
Courtyard by Marriott Downtown at USC	630 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201	Nicole Kravitz Nicole.kravitz@sree.com	\$129.00 p/night
Embassy Suites by Hilton Columbia	200 Stoneridge Drive, Columbia, SC 29210	Tiana Michael Tiana.Michael@atriumhospitality.com	\$139.00 p/night
Hampton Inn Downtown Historic District	822 Gervais St., Columbia, SC 29201	Bailey McAbee b.mcabee@hospitalityamerica.com	\$139.00 p/night
Holiday Inn Express & Suites	901 Washington St., Columbia, SC 29201	KC Udani kudani@swamihotelgroup.com	\$119.00 p/night
Homewood Suites by Hilton	230 Greystone Blvd., Columbia, SC 29210	Aezha Medlock Aezha.medlock@aimbridge.com	\$109.00
Hyatt Place Columbia	230 Greystone Blvd., Columbia, SC 29210	Nichole Timmerman Nichole.Timmerman@Hyatt.com	\$149.00
Staybridge Suites Columbia Downtown	1913 Huger St., Columbia, SC 29201	Shelley Nutt sales@staycolumbiasc.com	\$149.00
Tru by Hilton Columbia	185 Stoneridge Dr., Columbia, SC 29210	Chelsea Vail Bchelsea.vail@parkshotels.com	\$99.00

GENERAL RULES FOR PARTICIPATION

The following is a list of instructions and forms that you must complete to register your team in this year's tournament. All forms must be completed and received by 5:00 pm CST on Friday, November 15, 2024. No late applications will be accepted.

1. **ELIGIBILITY AND VERIFICATION** – All participants must be verified as eligible to participate as listed in this section. Every participant must be legally listed on the dwelling lease of a low-income public housing property, multifamily property, Housing Choice Voucher Program, or a member of a Boys and Girls Club. The Housing Authority or Boys and Girls Club Executive Director is required to verify resident/membership status by signing the Certification form.

Age—The athlete's age determination date is the first day of the tournament, January 17, 2025. A copy of each athlete's birth certificate or Insurance/Medicaid card must be submitted with the team's entry application. Athletes without proper proof of age are ineligible.

Age Classification:

- 18 & under (Born after 1/17/2007)
- 15 & under (Born after 1/17/ 2010)
- 12 & under (Born after 1/17/2013)

Education Activities/School Grades—Participants must abide by the following rules:

- Each athlete/student must be enrolled in school or in an approved GED program.
- Each participant is required to maintain an overall "C" average. If an overall "C" average is not maintained, participant is required to enroll in a tutorial program. The tutorial program may be administered by the school, local Housing Authority or other agency.
- Each team is responsible for having its team members involved in educational activities. Each team must submit a written summary of what it is doing to meet the above requirement. Failure to provide this information will make the team ineligible to participate.

High School Athletic Eligibility—Athletes listed on their school's basketball/cheer team during the current school year are prohibited from participating in this tournament.

2. **CODE OF ETHICS/CONDUCT**—Participants are expected to display good sportsmanship at all times. The HUD Youth Sports Code of Ethics will be enforced. This form is to be signed by each athlete, coach, chaperone, and coordinator.
3. **WAIVER AND RELEASE LIABILITY FORM**—Each athlete and coach are required to complete a Waiver Form for insurance purposes. Any athlete or coach without a completed and signed Waiver Form will be ineligible to participate.
4. **EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT**—Teams registered in the Annual SERC Martin Luther King Jr. Basketball Tournament and Cheer Competition, are required to participate in the educational component of the weekend. This component is designed to not only provide entertainment for participating athletes, but also to educate them. Failure to attend the educational component will result in a team's forfeiture of their first game played.
5. **BASKETBALL/CHEER TEAM ROSTER**—Complete a roster for each team participating.
6. **TEAM NAME**—Each team should have a unique team name. For example: The Wizards, The Heat. Teams should avoid the following: OHA Blazers 18 & under, OHA Blazers 15 & under, etc.

7. **ENTRY FEE**—The entry fee is \$450 per basketball team and \$200 per cheer team. Make checks payable to Columbia Housing with SERC MLK Weekend in the memo line. Registration forms and checks may be mailed to Columbia Housing, Attn: SERC MLK Weekend 1917 Harden St., Columbia, SC 29204.
8. **HOTEL CURFEW**—Each team should establish a curfew time for athletes to be in bed. At the mandatory coaches meeting, the coaches will indicate the designated curfew time for their team(s).
9. **CHAPERONES**—Each team is required to have two (2) adults present at all times.
10. **RULES**—All age divisions may compete in an older age classification; however, older participants may not compete in a younger age classification. An athlete can only be listed on one roster. All age divisions will play 15-minute halves running the clock, and will stop only for time outs. Each team has two 30-second time-outs per half, and three full 60-second time-outs per game. Overtime will consist of five minutes running clock, each team has one full time-out. All teams will play with a 29.5" size ball. A mercy rule will be in effect. A running clock will begin once a team is ahead by 30 points or more. The clock will continuously run until the points difference is less than 20.
11. **FORFEITS**—Any team that leaves the tournament early or misses a game may forfeit all of their remaining games, and may be fined \$100.00 per game missed.
12. **AWARDS**—All athletes will receive an official 2025 SERC MLK Basketball & Cheer Tournament t-shirt. A team trophy will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each age classification. Each athlete on the 1st place team will receive individual medals and all participating athletes will receive a commemorative gift.
13. **UNIFORMS**—Uniformity on the court will be enforced. Each team athlete must wear the same color shirts, shorts, and socks. Failure to do so will result in a technical foul for the first offense and forfeiture of the game for future offenses.
14. **DRESS CODE**—No visible jewelry, open-toe shoes or hats during play on athletes, coaches and/or chaperones. Coaches and chaperones must wear a team t-shirt or a collared shirt during play. Banquet attire will be a collared shirt and tie for males and dress or dress slacks for females. If one fails to comply, they will not be allowed to attend the banquet or play their first game. In the case of a coach or chaperone, the entire team will forfeit the next game.
15. **PHOTOS/VIDEOGRAPHY CONSENT**— Those participating in the tournament allow permission for footage captured during the SERC MLK Weekend through video, photo and digital camera, to be used solely for the purposes of promotional material and publications, and waive any rights of compensation or ownership thereto.
16. **CONFIRMATION PACKET**—A confirmation packet and the tournament brackets will be emailed and/or mailed approximately the week of December 30, 2024 to the head coach/director listed on the Official Registration Form.

For questions or concerns, please contact the SERC MLK Weekend Committee:

SERCMLKtheCHway@columbiahousingsc.org

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

- Official Registration Form—Basketball/Cheer Team Roster (One per team.)
- Each Executive Director of the Housing Authority or Boys and Girls Club must sign the Certification of Academic/Athletic/Resident Eligibility
- A photocopy of each athlete's birth certificate or Insurance/Medicaid card
- HUD Youth Sports Code of Ethics (Signed by each athlete and each coach, assistant coach, coordinator, and chaperone.)
- Basketball/Cheer Individual Waiver (Each athlete must sign, along with parent or guardian.)
- Team and Executive Director Photos (Include team photo with names of athletes as they appear in the photo, as well as an Executive Director photo. Photos may be emailed in jpeg or bitmap formats only.)
- Entry Fee— The entry fee is \$450 per basketball team and \$200 per cheer team. Make checks payable to the South Carolina Affordable Housing Initiative (SCAHI) with SERC MLK Weekend in the memo line. Registration forms and checks may be mailed to Columbia Housing, Attn: SERC MLK Weekend at 1917 Harden Street, Columbia SC 29204.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

All forms must be received by November 15, 2024.

For questions or concerns, please contact the SERC MLK Weekend Committee:
SERCMLKtheCHway@columbiahousingsc.org

CHEER COMPETITION RULES

1. **ELIGIBILITY**—The Cheer Competition is open to all boys and girls that fall in the two (2) age brackets below. Eligibility is determined by the grade of the contestants as of January 17, 2025. Proof of grade will be established prior to the competition.
2. **AGE BRACKETS**—Two (2) brackets will compete in the 2025 SERC MLK Cheer Tournament: 8th Grade & Under and 9th Grade & Up. Each member must be competing in their appropriate grade bracket.
3. **ENTRIES**—All contestants must register using the official 2025 SERC MLK Basketball & Cheer Tournament entry form. Completed entry forms should be submitted with tournament registration forms no later than 5:00 p.m. EST on Friday, November 15, 2024. Each registered team may submit only two (2) competing cheer/dance teams (one per age bracket).
4. **REGULATIONS**
 - All teams, gyms, coaches and directors must have an emergency response plan in the event of an injury.
 - All height increasing apparatus used to propel an athlete is not allowed.
 - No tumbling mats will be provided.
 - Required spotters for all skills must be your own team's members, and be trained in proper spotting techniques.
 - Routine performance may not exceed five minutes. Timing will begin with the first movement, voice, or note of music, whichever comes first. Timing will end with the last movement, last voice, or note of music, whichever comes last.
5. Athletes must have at least one foot, hand or body part (other than hair) on the performing surface when the routine begins.
6. The competitors who begin a routine must remain the same throughout the course of a routine. A performer is not permitted to be "replaced" by another performer during a routine.
7. An athlete must not have gum, candy, cough drops or other such edible or non-edible items, which may cause choking in his/her mouth during practice and/or performance.
8. All cheers and music must be positive in nature. No profane, explicit, or questionable language or music may be used in any cheer. Music selection must be submitted by December 27, 2024.
9. Any dance moves should be in good taste and never be suggestive in any way, shape, or form.

Official Entry Form – Basketball Challenge/Cheer Squad Team Roster

Please Print Clearly – Only **ONE TEAM PER FORM**. If you are entering more than one team, please photocopy this Form and all Tournament Participants listed below must complete & sign a Basketball Individual Waiver

ENTRY FEE—The entry fee is \$450 per basketball team and \$200 per cheer team. Make checks payable to Columbia Housing with SERC MLK Weekend in the memo line. Registration forms and checks may be mailed to Columbia Housing, Attn: SERC MLK Weekend 1917 Harden St., Columbia, SC 29204. If you would like to make payment online, please visit <https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/U58MM3U6EERSQ>

TEAM/SQUAD INFORMATION – CHOOSE A UNIQUE TEAM NAME FOR EACH TEAM (Example: The Wizards, The Eagles, The Bobcats)

TEAM NAME: _____ FAX NUMBER: (_____) _____

HEAD COACH/COORDINATOR

NAME: _____ WORK NUMBER: (_____) _____

ADDRESS: _____ MOBILE NUMBER: (_____) _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____ T-SHIRT SIZE _____

HOUSING AUTHORITY/BOYS & GIRLS CLUB: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

(1) ASSISTANT COACH: _____ T-SHIRT SIZE _____

(2) ASSISTANT COACH: _____ T-SHIRT SIZE _____

BOYS 18/UNDER BOYS 15/UNDER BOYS 12/UNDER GIRLS 18/UNDER GIRLS 15/UNDER GIRLS 12/UNDER

Enter Players Information HERE:

Last Name, First Name	Birthday (Age on 1/13/2023)	Housing Complex/Boys & Girls Club	(Adult sizes only) T-shirt Size
1. _____	____-____-____	_____	_____
2. _____	____-____-____	_____	_____
3. _____	____-____-____	_____	_____
4. _____	____-____-____	_____	_____
5. _____	____-____-____	_____	_____
6. _____	____-____-____	_____	_____
7. _____	____-____-____	_____	_____
8. _____	____-____-____	_____	_____
9. _____	____-____-____	_____	_____
10. _____	____-____-____	_____	_____
11. _____	____-____-____	_____	_____
12. _____	____-____-____	_____	_____
13. _____	____-____-____	_____	_____
14. _____	____-____-____	_____	_____
15. _____	____-____-____	_____	_____
16. _____	____-____-____	_____	_____

T-shirt Totals: Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ X Large _____ XX Large _____ XXX Large _____ **TOTAL SHIRTS** _____

CERTIFICATION OF ACADEMIC/ATHLETIC/RESIDENT ELIGIBILITY

I do hereby certify that the _____ (Authority Name/Boys & Girls Club) has taken the necessary steps to ensure academic eligibility for each athlete participating in the 2025 SERC MLK Basketball & Cheer Tournament.

I am prepared to verify that participants have maintained at least a “C” average this school year or are enrolled in a tutorial program.

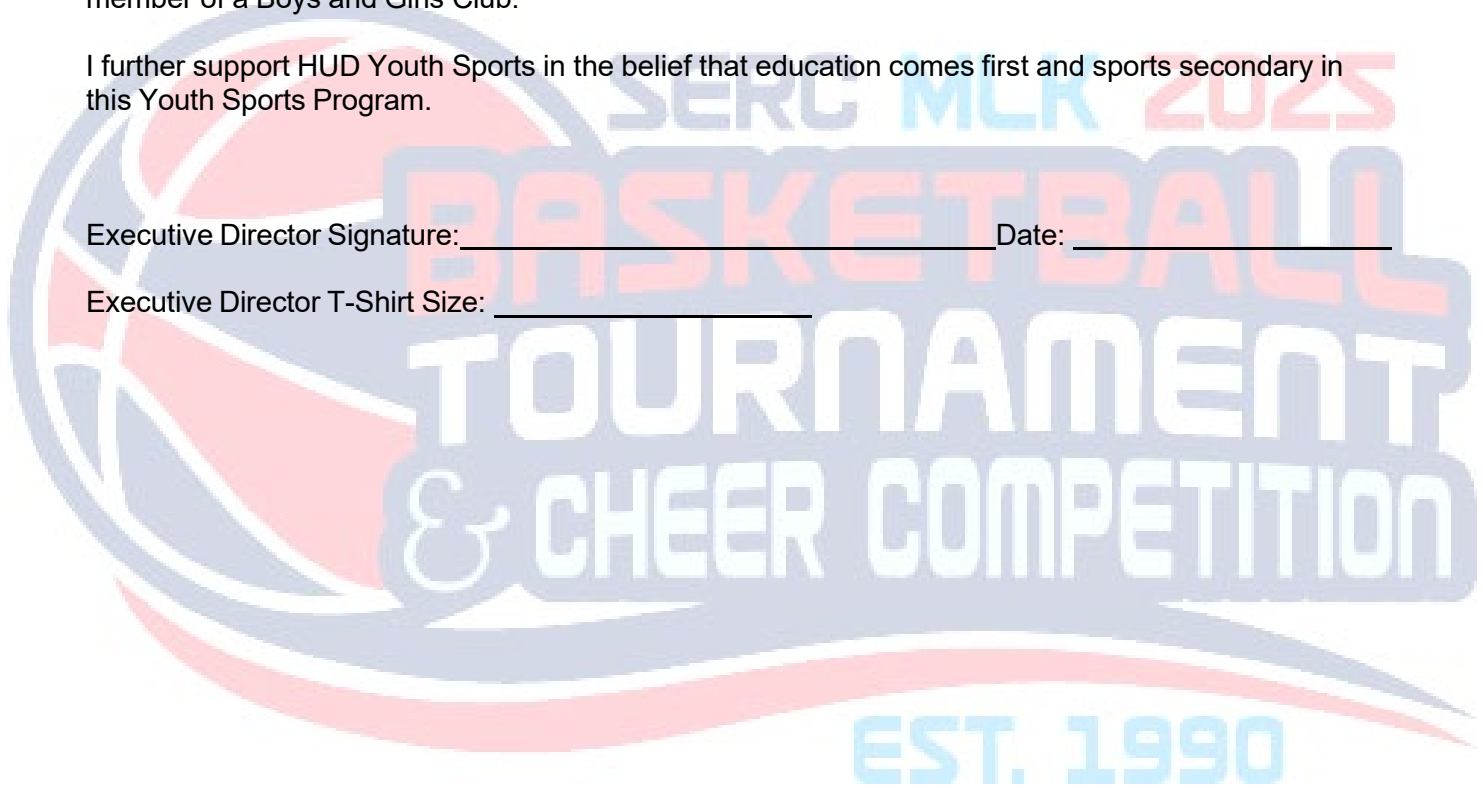
Additionally, I acknowledge that athletes participating in basketball for their high school team are prohibited from in this tournament.

I verify each participant is legally listed on the dwelling lease of the LIPH, multifamily, HCVP, or a member of a Boys and Girls Club.

I further support HUD Youth Sports in the belief that education comes first and sports secondary in this Youth Sports Program.

Executive Director Signature: _____ Date: _____

Executive Director T-Shirt Size: _____



HUD YOUTH SPORTS CODE OF ETHICS

All Athletes, Coaches, Coordinators, and Chaperones MUST Sign
(Please make copies for each person.)

FOR ATHLETES

I hereby pledge to live up to the following Code of Ethics and understand that failure to do so may result in game suspensions, disqualifications and/or loss of participation.

- I will encourage good sportsmanship from fellow athletes, coaches, officials, and parents at every game and practice demonstrating good sportsmanship myself.
- I will attend every practice and game that I can and notify my coach prior to practice or a game if I cannot attend.
- I will expect to receive a fair and equal amount of playing time.
- I will do my very best to listen and learn from my coaches.
- I will treat my coaches, opponents, officials and fans with the utmost respect regardless of their gender, religion, race, looks, habits or abilities, and I will expect to be treated accordingly.
- I deserve to play in a fun environment that is free of drugs, tobacco, alcohol, and profanity, and will refrain from personal usage.
- I promise to use the same energy and ability I use in sports in the classroom because I deserve a quality education.
- I will encourage my parents/guardians to be involved with my team in some capacity because it is important to me.
- I will remember that sports are an opportunity to learn and have fun.
- I understand that the willful violation of Public Housing/Multifamily Authority Youth Sports rules will disqualify me and may disqualify my entire team from further participation in future events.
- I certify that I was not listed on my school's basketball/cheer team roster during the current session.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Team Name/Age Group: _____

HUD YOUTH SPORTS CODE OF ETHICS

All Athletes, Coaches, Coordinators, and Chaperones MUST Sign
(Please make copies for each person.)

FOR COACHES/COORDINATORS/CHAPERONES

I hereby pledge to live up to the following code of ethics and understand that failure to do so may result in game suspensions, disqualifications and/or possible loss of employment.

- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my athletes ahead of a personal desire to win.
- I will treat each athlete as an individual, remembering the large range of emotional and physical development within the same age group.
- I will do my best to provide a safe playing environment for my athletes.
- I will review and practice the basic first aid principles needed to treat injuries of my athletes.
- I will do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all my athletes.
- I will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all my athletes.
- I will maintain a fun environment that is free of drugs, tobacco, alcohol, and profanity and will refrain from their use.
- I will be knowledgeable in the rules of each sport that I coach, and the rules of the Public Housing/Multifamily Youth Sports Program, and I will teach these rules to my athletes.
- I will use coaching techniques appropriate for each of the skills that I teach.
- I will remember that I am a youth sports coach and that the game is for children-not adults.
- I certify that my roster contains no one listed on their school's basketball/cheer team during the current season.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Team Name/Age Group: _____

BASKETBALL/CHEER INDIVIDUAL WAIVER

Individual Information

Name: _____

Birthdate: _____ Home Number: _____ Cell Number: _____

Address: _____

Emergency Contact Information

Name: _____

Relationship: _____ Home Number: _____ Cell Number: _____

In consideration of the participant being allowed to participate in this athletic/sports program and related events and activities, the undersigned:

1. ACKNOWLEDGES and FULLY UNDERSTANDS that the participant will be engaging in activities that involve risk or serious injury, including permanent disability and death, and severe social and economic losses which might result not only from their own actions, inactions or negligence, but the actions, inactions and negligence of others, the rules of play or the condition of the premises or of any equipment used. Further, that there may be other risks not known or reasonably foreseen at this time.
2. ASSUMES all the foregoing risks, known and unknown, and accepts personal responsibility for damages following such injury, permanent disability, or death.
3. RELEASES, WAIVES, DISCHARGES, HOLDS HARMLESS, INDEMNIFIES AND COVENANTS NOT TO SUE HUD or sponsors of the basketball tournament, its affiliated clubs, the promoters, other participants, operators, officials, any person in a restricted area, sponsors, advertisers, owners and lessees of the premises used to conduct the event and each of them, their officers and employees, all of which are hereinafter referred to as "releases", from any and all liability to each of the undersigned, his or her heirs, executors, administrators, successors, assigns and next of kin for any and all claims, demands, losses or damages on account of injury.
4. AUTHORIZES in the event that the participant sustains injury or illness while competing/ participating in the basketball tournament or cheer competition, any emergency first aid, medication, medical treatment or surgery, deemed necessary by licensed medical personnel, and give permission for attending medical personnel to execute on the behalf of the participant permission forms or other necessary medical documents and to act on his or her behalf if he or she is not immediately available to do so.
5. CONSENTS to allow the participant's picture and/or likeness or voice to appear in any official documentary, promotions (including any and all advertisements) television, radio or film coverage of the basketball tournament or cheer competition in any manner incidental to his or her participation in the basketball tournament or cheer competition, without compensation.

THE UNDERSIGNED HAS READ THE ABOVE WAIVER, RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND AUTHORIZATION OF MEDICAL TREATMENT, GIVES UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT AND ACKNOWLEDGES IT IS SIGNED VOLUNTARILY. THIS AGREEMENT CANNOT BE ORALLY MODIFIED BY ANY PARTY.

Participant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (if under 19): _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): _____ Relationship to Minor: _____