

NEWS RELEASE

Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau



Rockford Region to Welcome Illinois Kids Wrestling Federation for 10th Consecutive Year *State Tournament to Return to Rockford Through 2014*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ROCKFORD, IL — Nearly 1,500 people will descend on downtown Rockford this March for the [Illinois Kids Wrestling Federation](#) state tournament. This is the 10th consecutive year the Rockford Region will host the tournament, which has committed to Rockford through 2014.

With the three-year extension, Rockford will hold the distinction of serving as the longest-running host of the event. The event will take place March 9 – 10, 2012 at the BMO Harris Bank Center.

Roughly 900 wrestlers, boys and girls, ages 10-14 will compete in the tournament. The event draws nearly 1,500 athletes, coaches and spectators, who are projected to spend an estimated \$350,000 while in town.

“IKWF chooses to return to Rockford because we are continually impressed by the partnerships and relationships developed with RACVB and BMO Harris Bank Center. Our organization has worked with many venues over the past few decades and Rockford is at the top. Our athletes and fans are welcomed with open arms by the hotels, restaurants and the rest of the community,” said IKWF event organizer Gene Lee.

RACVB staff rolls out the red carpet for this event, hosting an on-site information booth, providing gift bags for VIP attendees and providing a small souvenir for athletes. In addition, RACVB sponsors and orchestrates the opening ceremonies, complete with color guard and entertainment. Sandwich boards will be provided to downtown restaurants to encourage wrestlers and fans to stop in; street signs will welcome wrestlers to the region and staff is working with local businesses to encourage their support by welcoming wrestlers on their marquees and signs.

“We’re honored an event of this caliber continues to choose Rockford to host its championship tournament. RACVB was pleased to work with IKWF and the BMO Harris Bank Center to bring this tournament to Rockford through 2014,” said John Groh, RACVB President/CEO. “The commitment and dedication of RACVB team members, our industry partners and the community in welcoming this event is critical to ensuring its return each year.”

RACVB is a private, non-profit organization established in 1984 to champion efforts to promote the Rockford Region as an overnight visitor destination. The RACVB adds wealth to the region’s economy by investing in marketing programs that grow tourism. www.gorockford.com

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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