

NEWS RELEASE

Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau



Puma Champions Cup Returns to Rockford Region for 11th Year

Nearly 600 teams will attend and bring \$1.6 million in spending to area

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 2, 2013

ROCKFORD, IL — The Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau (RACVB) announces the 11th Annual Puma Champions Cup, hosted by the Rockford Raptors Soccer Club, will return to the Rockford region during the first and second weekends in April. The annual soccer tournament, held at the Sportscore complexes, attracts nearly 600 teams from eight Midwestern states. Three international teams will also arrive from Canada.

The Puma Champions Cup brings an estimated \$1.6 million in economic activity to the Rockford Region. More than 26,000 people are expected to attend the tournament, which is the largest soccer tournament held in the Rockford Region.

The **Puma College Showcase and Tournament is being held on April 6 – 7** and includes 205 teams of 13 – 19 year old athletes, men's and women's division. The high level of competition attracts approximately 50 college coaches to scout and recruit players. **The Puma Champions Cup on April 13 – 14** is an opportunity for mid to lower level boys and girls teams in the 8 – 15 age range to compete. More than 390 teams and 5,000 players are anticipated to participate during the second weekend.

"With teams coming from the entire Midwest and even Canada, this tournament provides great exposure for the world-class sports facilities that we have at Sportscore One and Two," said RACVB President/CEO John Groh. "The strong partnership between the RACVB and the Rockford Park District has been critical to the success of this event. Through our collaboration to ensure visitors, athletes and coaches have the best experience possible in Rockford, we have been able to retain and help grow this annual tournament, which has a major economic impact in our region."

"Each year, athletes, coaches and fans are very impressed by this tournament and look forward to coming back. The quality of competition, facilities and customer service throughout both weekends are outstanding. This is why the tournament has really thrived and grown in the Rockford Region," said Puma Champions Cup tournament director Frank Mateus.

Games are scheduled throughout the day on Saturday and Sunday of both weekends. A complete schedule of both weekends, including start times for specific games can be found at www.rockfordraptors.org. Admission is free for spectators.

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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