

16th ANNUAL BEST BASKETBALL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Kansas City Keys will host its Sixteenth (16th) Annual Best Basketball Invitational Tournament. The tournament for boys and girls in Grades K through Sixth (6th) will be held during February 13th-15th, 2009, and for boys and girls in Grades Seventh (7th) and Eighth (8th) during February 20th-22nd, 2009. (Out of town teams will not start until late Friday or Early Saturday Morning, unless accomodable.)

Games are to be hosted at various sites throughout the Kansas City area including Boys and Girls Club, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Avila College and Della Lambe. This year's tournament has over 100 teams participating from Arkansas, Kansas, Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas. Over 5,000 players, coaches, students and fans are expected to participate. Prominent teams include the: Arkansas Hawks, DFW Elite, Texas Suns Select, Nebraska Cornhuskers, St. Louis Swarm, Oklahoma And One, St. Louis the Family, St. Louis Eagles, SW Illinois Jets, Springfield Stars, KC Cowboys, Texas Suns Select, Ark Triple Threat, MV Blazers, Della Lamb Angels, and St. Louis Gateway and StL Hoop Squad.

The local club teams include our own Kansas City Keys teams for boys and girls. Other teams include teams from Northland, Shawnee Mission, Overland Park, Lee's Summit and Raytown.

There will be over 280 games played for the tournament. The impact on tourism for Kansas City has been estimated at over \$2,000,000 by the Kansas City Convention Bureau. Crown Center is serving as our host hotel site. Over 800 room nights will be served.

On Saturday, February 14th and 21st, an educational session focusing on Career Awareness and Job Opportunities. Program will provide awareness on careers and the pre-requisites to securing those careers including education through college or vocational. T-shirts, prizes and trophies will be awarded to the first place, second place finishers in each division.

Scouts will also evaluate some of the participants in the tournament. Past participants include: Greg Oden (Ohio State, Portland Trailblazers) & Michael Conley Jr. (Ohio State, Memphis Grizzlies), Jaron Rush, Kareem (Missouri, Indiana Pacers) & Brandon Rush (Kansas University, Indiana Pacers), Marcus Walker at Colorado State, Dominique Johnson at University of North Texas, Isaac Miles at Murray State, Quinton Day (UMKC – Hungary Int'l League), Daquan Cook (Ohio State, Miami Heat), Tim Blackwell and Mike Watson from University of Missouri-Kansas City, Darrel Arthur (Kansas University, Memphis Grizzlies), Clint Stewart at Kansas State, Nick Wise at the University of Arizona, Sheldon Williams (Duke, Sacramento), DJ Hord at Northern Iowa, Bryce Morris of Southern Illinois University, Jermaine Beals at Vanderbilt, Allen Smith at Boston College, Danielle Adams, Latoya Johnson, Cherakie Barrett and Shalisa and Trolisa Williams at Jefferson College, Tanisha Smith and Tyra White (Texas A & M), and Marisah Henderson (Wichita State), Kanisha Agee at Drake University, George Goode at University of Louisville, Jarryd Cole at University of Iowa, Tiera Ford at NWMSU, Jackie Griggs (MO State), Nate Johnson (Florida State), Thomas Vincent (Emporia State), Jamar Howard (Wichita State), Sherrod Williams, Jeff Graves (KU), Rahmon Fletcher at Milwaukee-Wisconsin, Travis (KU), Terrance Hill (Coffeyville), Marcus Denmon (Hogan Prep, MU), Eric Jones and Johnny Brown (Moberly), Michael Craion (Independence), Reggie Chamberlain (Raytown High, Wichita State), Dominique Morrison (Oral Roberts), Dominique Newton, (Central Arkansas), Beaumont Beasley (University of Missouri-St.Louis), Michael Dixon (Lee's Summit West, MU Signee), Daylen Robinson of Northeast, TJ White of O'Hara, Chase Salazar of Lee's Summit North, Trevor Releford of Bishop Miege, Marisah Ellis of Staley HS, Jameisha Price of Blue Springs HS, and hundreds of talented others.

If you would like to participate with this exciting event, contact: Harrel Johnson at 816-483-7997.
Kansas City Keys, P.O. Box 270257, Kansas City, Mo 64127