

Parent Guide to Graduation at the Schottenstein Center

The Schottenstein Center is very pleased to welcome Graduates, Families, and Friends to this year's Ceremony.

We've worked closely with School Administrators and Public Health Officials to implement procedures, protocols, and technologies in an effort to create a safe and comfortable environment. This event could not take place without the cooperation of everyone involved, including you. Please take time to review this information so that we can help your Graduate have the best possible experience on this exciting day.

Additional policies and information can be found at <https://www.schottensteincenter.com>

COVID-19 Warning

You must follow all Ohio State and venue policies, including health and safety policies, and posted instructions while in the venue and on venue grounds. An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, senior citizens and guests with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable. By visiting Ohio State Athletic venues, you voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19.

Ticketing

All guests attending a graduation ceremony at the Schottenstein Center will be required to have a ticket (except graduating students). Facility seating will be limited and will be based on the establishment of "family seating pods" of four seats per pod. The pattern of "pods" will be arrayed throughout the facility bowl and distanced from the adjacent pod. Guests are expected to sit in their ticketed/assigned seat and not move toward or join another pod. Event staff will continuously monitor and separate fans who are not sitting in their assigned seats. Failure to follow the direction of stadium personnel or law enforcement can result in ejection from the facility or loss of ticket privileges.

All tickets will be issued digitally – no paper tickets will be issued. Your entire party should enter the arena together with the phone holder who has the tickets. If you need to enter separately, be sure to transfer your digital tickets to the other guests in your party ahead of time through the mobile app. Screenshots of tickets are not valid and will not scan upon entry – you must transfer tickets from the smartphone app directly. Visit our [Digital Ticket Guide](#) before you come to the Schottenstein Center!

Facility Entrance

Please plan to arrive to the venue much earlier than you normally would in order to reduce congestion and wait times. If you wait until shortly before the ceremony to enter – you will miss part of the event. Doors for each ceremony will open 60 minutes prior to the start time. Physical distancing, larger line queues, and other safety protocols will slow down the entry into the facility from what you may be used to.

Accessible / Disability Seating

Accessible/disabled seating is available on the entry level (100) and terrace levels (300) arena. The seating area is level with the exterior walkways and concourses and involve no stairs. Guests needing disability seating should visit Guest Services on the day of the event to exchange traditional seats for accessible seats. Seating is first-come, first-served and we ask that you limit the number of companions seated with the guest in need so that we may accommodate others. There is an ample amount of regular seating adjacent to the accessible platforms for the rest of your party.

Mask Policy



Face masks are required to be worn at all times on the Ohio State campus, indoors and outdoors, for those ages 2 and up. This includes all campus buildings and outdoor areas, facilities, parking areas, outside the arena, gate entry, concourse, arena seating bowl and club/loge areas. Face masks may not be removed while at your seat. Masks may ONLY be removed, temporarily, for eating and drinking while seated.

Masks must be fabric or disposable surgical-style masks that cover the nose and mouth. **Bandanas, scarves, gaiters, buffs and the like are not acceptable.** Masks that have exhalation valves with or without filters may not be worn on campus.

The use of masks is not a substitute for physical distancing. Clear face shields may only be worn in combination with an approved face mask. Costume masks are also not considered appropriate and are prohibited from being worn.

If you are unable to wear a mask, you may complete a [Disability Needs Request Form](#) to discuss an alternative. Please complete the form 1-2 weeks in advance of the event you are attending. If you do not complete the Disability Needs Request Form (and granted an exception) ahead of time, you will be required to wear a mask.

Post-Ceremony Meet Up

Due to physical distancing protocols, guests will not be able to meet with your graduate inside the building after the ceremony – **graduates will exit the building directly to the outside from the arena floor (rain or shine)**. All guests will be asked to exit the building promptly after the ceremony ends – congregating inside on the concourses will not be permitted. **Families should make plans to meet up with their graduating student at a designated location outside of the facility or off-campus.**

No Bag Policy

Bags or purses of any size are NOT permitted into the Schottenstein Center. Wallets and wristlets no larger than 5"x8"x1" are permitted. All items and persons entering the Schottenstein Center are subject to security screening and inspection.

To limit the amount of staff interaction during security screening, we advise all guests to bring only necessary items and carry them in.

Guests entering with medical, dietary, or childcare needs will enter through a dedicated lane available at each entrance to have their items inspected. One bag (approximately 14"x14"x4") per person will be permitted.

Gifts

Packages, gifts, and bags are not permitted into the arena and will be stopped during the security inspection process at the gates. Please be sure to exchange gifts at home!

Permitted Items

- Binoculars (without cases)
- Body worn baby carriers
- Bottles that are clear, plastic, and empty
- Cameras and video recording devices
- Coats & jackets (worn or carried)
- Mobility devices (such as canes, crutches, walkers, rollators, wheelchairs, scooters)
- Wallets, wristlets, or clutches no larger than 5x8x1"
- One bag is permitted for guests with medical, dietary, or childcare needs. Guests may enter through a dedicated lane available at each entrance to have their items inspected. One bag (approximately 14"x14"x4") per person will be permitted for: medications, medical equipment & supplies, single serving snack for medical needs, diapers, formula, baby food, baby bottles, breast pump, etc.

Prohibited Items/ Security Screening

Guests are subject to inspection of person, parcels, bags, and clothing capable of concealing prohibited items. Guests may refuse inspections but management reserves the right to refuse entry. Guests that are found at screening or inside the arena with prohibited items are subject to Ohio Law and/or ejection from the arena. Prohibited items may be confiscated. Guests will be asked to comply with all screenings, i.e. removal of hats, emptying of metal from pockets and entry through metal detectors.

Other prohibited items include:

- All bags (including but not limited to backpacks, fanny packs, purses, string or 'cinch' bags, messenger bags, crossbody bags, camera bags, briefcases, grocery bags, roll bags, binocular cases, duffle bags or any other bags)
- Banners, flags, posters, and signs that interfere with the viewing of other guests
- Clothing with profane, inappropriate or abusive language
- Containers (common examples include but are not limited to hard sided coolers, soft pack coolers, ice chests, picnic baskets, cans, heavy plastic or glass bottles, thermoses)
- Confetti, streamers, glitter, balloons
- Firearms. Weapons are not permitted in the arena/stadium. Possession of a firearm or weapon is strictly forbidden. Possession of a weapon will result in immediate confiscation, ejection and/or possible arrest. Off-duty law enforcement: [click here for concealed-carry policy](#)
- Fireworks or explosives
- Food and beverages
- Illegal drugs
- Inflatables (balls, balloons, etc.)
- Markers or Paint
- Noisemaking devices (common examples include but are not limited to whistles, air horns, bull horns, blow horns, musical instruments, kazoos, bugles, cow bells, thunder sticks, sirens, milk jugs with rocks or coins, and stereos)
- Sticks, Poles, Pipes or Selfie sticks
- Televisions or video monitors
- Weapons or items that mimic weapons including but not limited to: (aerosol cans, mace, pepper spray, lighters, matches, firearms, including CCW permit holders, fireworks, pocket knives, knives, spiked bracelets, brass knuckles, martial arts weapons, stun guns, squirt guns, super soakers and chains) or any item deemed dangerous or inappropriate.
- Wrapped gifts or packages
- Anything deemed by management to pose a safety hazard or diminish the enjoyment of an event by other guests.

Concessions

A limited number of stands will be open for the ceremony. Menu options will be limited and **all transactions will be cashless**. Credit cards and smartphone payments will be accepted. All concession personnel will undergo COVID-19 safety training. Our partners at Levy Restaurants have prepared an altered menu of food with more prepackaged/wrapped food items. Self-serve soda fountains will be closed but beverages will be available directly from the concession stand. Enhanced cleaning will be part of our food service operation.

Wheelchair Escorts

Complimentary wheelchair escorts are available at any entry point. Upon your arrival to the arena, ask any of our uniformed staff and they will call for an escort. You do not need to make arrangements prior to your event. They will escort you as close as possible to your seat and will make arrangements to pick you up after the event. Please be aware that our escort staff will not remain with you during the event, nor will they allow you to remain in our wheelchair for the duration of the event. Guest Attendants will assist guests who wish to transfer to a seat from their personal wheelchair with storing of their wheelchair during the event.

Driving & Parking Information

Drop Off / Pick Up

Guests can be dropped-off before/ picked-up after an event on Borrer Drive which runs along the North Side of the building. Parking Services staff will direct you to the designated location for your event.

Parking

Parking will be available in the Scarlet and Gray lots adjacent to the Schottenstein Center on graduation days.

College of Veterinary Medicine and Nursing: Parking will be free for all graduates and guests.

High Schools: Some high schools may provide a complimentary parking permit to their graduates. If you do not have a parking permit from your school, each vehicle will be charged \$5 to park. Parking is **CASHLESS** - only credit cards payments will be accepted in the lots.

Disability parking is available on a first-come, first-serve basis in the Scarlet Lots adjacent to the Schottenstein Center. Parking is also \$5 to park in the disability lot for high school graduations.

A parking map denoting available lots will be posted soon. Visit <https://www.schottensteincenter.com/plan-your-visit/directions-parking> closer to your ceremony to view a parking map.