



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Battle of the Badges?

It's an exhilarating stair-climbing and fundraising competition that raises money and awareness for the work of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Hundreds of firefighters, EMS workers and law enforcement officers from stations and departments throughout Ohio form two-person or four-person relays teams and race up 40 flights of stairs at the Rhodes State Office Tower (the tallest building in Central Ohio) in Columbus, Ohio. The toughest competitors tackle all 40 flights on their own. The fastest solo climbers (one firefighter, one law enforcement officer) will be recognized at the Arnold Sports Festival in early March.

How can law enforcement officers realistically “compete” against firefighters who climb wearing more than 50 pounds of gear?

Law enforcement officers can't realistically compete against firefighters in this climbing competition because it's like comparing apples to oranges. Firefighters will be climbing in full turnout gear that weighs over 50 pounds, while law enforcement officers will climb with a vest and belt that weights considerably less. The climbing competition is more "intra-departmental." For example, law enforcement officers from one department can compete against law enforcement officers from another department. Just as firefighters from one station can compete against firefighters from another station. However, fundraising is one sure way that law enforcement officers can compete against firefighters during "Battle of the Badges" fundraising. We hope this competition is taken as seriously as the physical competition.

When is the event being held?

Saturday, February 27, 2010

Where does the event take place?

Rhodes State Office Tower
30 E. Broad St.
Columbus, OH 43215

Where can out-of-town climbers stay overnight?

Please click on the "Out-of-Town Climbers" tab on the homepage for specific information.

What time should I be there?

Solo climbers will be scheduled for their ascent between 10 a.m. and 12 noon. Relay climbers (2-person and 4-person teams) will be scheduled between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

What should I wear for the climb?

Please click on the "Attire/Equipment" tab on the homepage for more specific information.

Can I bring my family?

Absolutely. They'll be able to watch all the action on large video screens. If they feel like climbing a few flights themselves, we'll let them do that for 30 minutes beginning at 12:15 p.m. And there will be plenty of other activities to keep them busy and having fun while they're there to cheer you on.

Where should I park?

Parking is available in the underground parking garage across the street at the Statehouse. The cost is a flat \$3.00. The only entrance to the garage will be at the intersection of E. State and S. Third Streets. Park on the Green Level close to Aisle #1. There will not be a cashier, so you will be paying an auto teller when you leave. It accepts bills, quarters, Visa, MasterCard, and American Express. All change will be given back in quarters! Your credit card charge will appear as a purchase from The State House Museum Shop. The parking garage is secured by the State Highway Patrol, but is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Enter the Rhodes State Office Tower through the tunnel entrance in the parking garage (on the Green Level, Aisle #1).

What should I do when I arrive at the Rhodes Tower?

Please arrive at least one hour prior to your assigned climbing time. Go to the registration/check-in area at the front of the Rhodes Tower lobby. You will be given a Climber Packet that contains your timing chip, bib number and day of event information. If you are part of a relay team, only the team leader is required to check in.

What should I do with my gear, equipment or personal belongings?

You will be able to store your gear and equipment in the Multipurpose Room located adjacent to the lobby of the Rhodes Tower. Please make sure everything is marked clearly with your first and last name. Although a volunteer will be monitoring the room, please be advised that The Rhodes Tower and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation are not responsible for any lost, stolen or damaged items.

What happens during the climb?

Each individual or team member will be given an On-Deck time. On-Deck and start times are not flexible. Line monitors will provide assistance at the On-Deck locations. Passing in the stairwells is permissible, but only on the right. Climbing a stairwell multiple times, or going "down the stairs" is strictly prohibited. Please remember that the Rhodes State Office Tower is open to employees. If you must exit in case of an emergency or you are unable to complete the climb, please seek security, a volunteer or medical staff for assistance to be properly escorted. DO NOT EXIT ANY FLOOR WITHOUT SECURITY PERSONNEL.

Am I required to fundraise in order to participate?

No, but we certainly encourage it. The money raised is used for vital research to extend the lifespan of kids diagnosed with cystic fibrosis. And fundraising can be a great way to build morale within a department or station. We have lots of simple ideas to get you started. Please click on the "Fundraising" tab for specific information.