



PARKS AND RECREATION

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Athens FUNdamental Basketball League

A Partnership between the City of Athens Parks and Recreation & the Athens McMinn Family YMCA
Registration Open Now

ATHENS, TENNESSEE – October 3, 2019 – The anticipation for the registration of the FUNdamental Basketball League is building with some exciting news to share from the City of Athens Parks and Recreation Department and the Athens-McMinn Family YMCA.

Both organizations are working together by competing in the same league with all games taking place at the YMCA and practices taking place either at the YMCA or local city elementary schools.

“Our YMCA staff and volunteer coaches are excited about the opportunity to continue growing the sport while competing in a larger league with our friends just across the street,” stated YMCA Director of Aquatics and Sports, Hannah Brickhouse.

“The opportunity to bring in some new players and expand into the pre-k age group is certainly a good opportunity for the Parks and Recreation Department,” said Brianna Hanson, Program Coordinator.

The Parks and Recreation Department and the YMCA are accepting registrations now through Oct. 25 for the 2019-20 Athens FUNdamental Basketball League.

The league is for boys and girls ranging in age from pre-k through 8th grade. The focus of this recreational program is to teach the fundamentals of basketball, introduce new players to the game, and to improve the health of the players through physical exercise. This is done with a maximum two-hour per week commitment, with one hour set aside for practice and one hour for games. All players will play a minimum of two complete quarters of each game.

There will be a skills assessment on Monday, Oct. 28, for 3rd through 8th graders. Practices will begin in November. There will be a weekly skills night for 3rd grade and up.

Games are currently scheduled for the following days: Dec. 7, 14, and 21, and Jan. 4, 11, 18, and 25, with a championship tournament on Feb. 1, with the possibility of some Friday evening games.

Applications are also being accepted for volunteer coaches and assistants. Anyone wishing to coach, or assist, will be required to pass a background check and complete a training course.

The applications are available in the Parks and Recreation office and on the Parks and Recreation website, www.cityofathenstn.com/parks. Additionally, the applications can be accessed online at www.athensmcminnymca.org/programs/youth-sports and at the YMCA's front desk.

All prospective coaches must submit their applications by Monday, Oct. 21.

"We had a successful year last season offering the skills night with plans to do that again this year. This is a great opportunity for players of all skill levels to improve their game and get another practice in each week. The Athens FUNdamental Basketball program is first a recreational league, but our main goal is to teach the kids the fundamentals and make sure that all the kids are receiving playing time. The kids are the most important part of our league," stated Brianna Hanson, Program Coordinator.

The cost is \$75 per player, which includes a reversible NBA-style jersey and matching shorts, a basketball, secondary medical insurance for each player, background checks for coaches, and game official expenses.

Players can register online at www.cityofathenstn.com/parks or in person at the Athens Parks and Recreation Office, located inside the Athens Municipal Building at 815 N. Jackson Street. Office hours are Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visa, MasterCard, and American Express are accepted. For more information, call 744-2704 or email recreation@cityofathenstn.com

Registration is also available at the YMCA at 205 Knoxville Avenue in Athens. Office hours are Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays through Fridays from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visa, MasterCard, and American Express are accepted. Participants can also register online at <https://operations.daxko.com/Online/5137/ProgramsV2/Home.mvc>. For more information, call 745-4904 or email info@athensmcminnymca.org.

The City of Athens is a full-service municipality nestled in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains and has garnered a reputation as the "Friendly City."

The Athens-McMinn Family YMCA is part of the nation's leading nonprofits strengthening the foundations of communities through cause driven programs in the areas of youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

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