

Volleyball Tournament

Bi-annually, the Student Council at Columbia High School organizes a Volleyball Tournament. This has proven to be our most successful fundraiser due to the many students who enjoy participating or watching. Friends create teams, sign up, and then are assigned a college as their team name. The day of the tournament, the teams sign in, and then we begin with 2 rounds of play, where every team plays twice. After, the second round the top 16 teams are placed in a bracket and teams advance until there are only two teams left. Student Council does not spend any additional funds purchasing a prize for the winning team. The prize is coming on to CCN, our TV station for our morning announcements the next day so they can brag about their accomplishments. This is generally enough for the winning team.

Before the tournament, we also have a lot of preparation to take care of. It starts with picking a date. The fall tournament usually falls in between the fall and winter sport seasons to ensure that the gym is free and there are no conflicting sporting events on the night of the tournaments. In the spring, the tournament is usually held on a night where there are no sport games or other possible conflicts once the spring season is over. After, we pick a date, it is announced to the student body and they have about a week to organize their teams and register with Student Council officers. We charge five dollars a person to play in the tournament. Teams are made up of 6 to 8 players. Admission to watch is three dollars. Once we have the teams' sign in sheets, they pick their college team name. The day of the tournament each team dresses in the colors of their colleges that they represent. Our referees are our Varsity Volleyball players. We provide them with whistles, whiteboards, and erasable markers so that they can easily keep score of each game. We also have a student DJ who plays approved popular music. This adds to the excitement of the evening. There is always at least one team of teachers who are included in the tournament. They are considered our "chaperones".

Another important aspect of our event is the snack table. We provide drinks, snacks, and homemade baked goods. The bake sale is assigned to a specific class (usually freshmen). They were able to set prices and the menu. We do not allow the food in the gym. It must be eaten in the lobby area.

This is a community event. We always have security on site. This event is the best attended and most diverse assembly of our student body and for that we are most proud. We often have parents, younger siblings, friends, staff members, and alumni come and watch this event.

Volunteers are crucial to the success of this event. They are responsible for signing teams in, selling tickets for admission, running the bake sale, participating as member's of the volleyball teams, refereeing, and keeping track of the brackets. In addition, student photographers take pictures for the yearbooks and the student newspaper. Our Student Council Advisors are an integral part of this event and are available to make sure the Volleyball Tournament is running smoothly and kept on schedule. This year because of how efficient we were we finished the volleyball tournament ahead of schedule.

Items that are needed:

- 2 Cash Boxes
- Bracket for tournament

- Volleyball nets/boards
- Referees
- Teacher volunteers
- Student Volunteers
- Bake Sale

This tournament requires a lot of hard work and patience to come together. However, once it does it's worth it. This year we matched our record breaking 24 teams! Not only will you raise a lot of funds, but the student body will be begging to have another! It's a great way to build school spirit and increase positive school community. Everyone is looking forward to our spring event and you can look forward to adding this to your successful Student Council sponsored activities.