



HOW IT WORKS

Everything you need to know before you hit the slide.

WHAT IS A SLIDE-A-THON?

Similar to a walk-a-thon or dance-a-thon, Smith's Slide-a-thon is a fundraising event that helps support the staffing and maintenance of Smith Memorial Playground and Playhouse, which welcomes roughly 150,000 visitors each year and is free to the public.

What makes the Slide-a-thon unique? Our famous Giant Wooden Slide. At 12.5 feet wide and 40 feet long, the slide has been enjoyed by families for more than 120 years and was even featured on the Emmy Award-winning show Abbott Elementary.

There's nothing quite like gliding down this giant slide. If you've done it before, you know what we're talking about. If you haven't, what are you waiting for?

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Everyone! To participate, simply form a team with family, friends, neighbors, club members, colleagues, or your community.

Your team will have the opportunity to compete head-to-head against a random or self-selected opponent. Who's stronger, faster, and more competitive? Sales or IT? Firefighters or police officers? Soccer players or basketball players? Meet us on the Giant Wooden Slide and find out.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FRIDAY AND SATURDAY?

FRIDAY — TEAM-BUILDING DAY. Step away from the workplace and onto the Giant Wooden Slide. Challenge another company, department, or workplace team to some friendly head-to-head competition.

Could your law firm beat another law firm? Can HR take down Marketing? After you slide, relax with your team and enjoy the playground and its scenic 6.5-acre setting. It's a fun, memorable off-site experience and definitely not your typical team-building activity.

SATURDAY — COMMUNITY DAY. Bring your family, friends, neighbors, club, or community group and show what you're made of. Fraternities, sororities, rec leagues, sports teams, and other groups can compete head-to-head. Saturday is also when children can compete individually against other kids in their age groups.

HOW DO I REGISTER A TEAM?

Use this link (URL tbd) to access the team registration site.

1. Choose Your Date - Select Friday, October 9 for Team-Building Day or Saturday, October 10 for Community Day.
2. Choose Your Division - Pick the division that matches your team's size and competitive spirit.
3. Choose Your Time Block - Select an available time block during registration. About two weeks before the event, we'll publish a schedule with your team's exact slide time. We'll do our best to accommodate requests for a specific time.

WHAT DIVISION SHOULD MY TEAM CHOOSE?

Choose the division that best fits the size and goals of your team.

DIVISION	TEAM SIZE	SLIDE TIME	ENTRY FEE
<i>Division I — Varsity</i> Go big! Bring a full roster, bring the energy, and claim the loudest bragging rights.	More than 10 sliders	30 min.	\$500
<i>Division II — Contenders</i> The sweet spot for teams looking for serious competition without a double-digit roster.	6 - 10 sliders	15 min.	\$250
<i>Division III — Rec League</i>	5 or fewer sliders	15 min.	\$125

All fun, low commitment. Perfect for small crews who simply want to get in on the action.

WHAT DOES THE REGISTRATION FEE COVER?

Your registration fee covers your team's participation in the Slide-a-thon, including your scheduled slide time as well as the day's competitions and activities. Funds raised through the Slide-a-thon help support the staffing and maintenance of Smith Memorial Playground and Playhouse.

CAN I REGISTER MULTIPLE TEAMS?

Absolutely! Bring the whole department, company, club, or crew.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I REGISTER?

Once you register, you'll receive information about your team's peer-to-peer fundraising page and next steps. Share your page with friends, family, coworkers, and your community and start building your team's fundraising total. About two weeks before the event, you'll receive your team's exact slide time within the time block you selected.

WHAT TIME WILL MY TEAM COMPETE?

During registration, you'll select an available time block, such as 10 a.m.–12 p.m. About two weeks before the event, we'll publish a schedule showing your team's exact slide time within that block. We'll do our best to accommodate requests for a specific time.

HOW CAN CHILDREN PARTICIPATE?

Children have two ways to participate on Community Day on Saturday, October 10:

1. Join a team. Kids can participate as part of a family, community, or other team.
2. Become a Free Agent. Don't have a team? No problem! Kids can register individually as Free Agents and compete against other children in their age group during the 10-12 time block.

WHAT IS A FREE AGENT?

Kids can register individually as Free Agents and compete against other children in their age group (Rookies: ages 4–6; Racers: ages 7–9; All-Stars: ages 10+) between the 10-12 time block. Their 30-minute experience includes slide competitions, relays, and other fun challenges such as the stuffed animal race, the balloon race, and the dribble race. Kids can also enjoy other fun activities in between races.

HOW DOES THE FUNDRAISING WORK?

Your team registration is the starting point. We encourage every team to raise additional funds by sharing its peer-to-peer fundraising page with friends, family, coworkers, and the community. The more you raise, the more you help support Smith Memorial Playground and Playhouse. Top peer-to-peer fundraisers—both teams and individuals—will receive special recognition.

WHAT DO WINNERS GET?

Bragging rights, of course! Plus... Medals for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams in each division. Special recognition and trophies will be given to the top peer-to-peer fundraisers, including teams and individuals.

WHAT IS THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE?

Registrations will be accepted through October 5, 2026. Walk-in registration will be available if space permits.

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR?

Wear comfortable clothes and shoes for sliding, racing, and playing! Team shirts, costumes, and creative outfits are highly encouraged.

WHAT IS THE ADDRESS AND IS PARKING AVAILABLE?

Smith Memorial Playground is located at 3500 Reservoir Drive in Philadelphia's East Fairmount Park. Plenty of free parking is available in the lot in front of our building.