

The Transplant Games of America (TGA) occur every other summer to bring together transplant recipients, living donors, donor families, caregivers, and transplant professionals from across the country. This year, TGA will be held in Birmingham, AL from July 5-10, 2024. The 2024 Transplant Games offers 20 different competitions and more than 60 special events. Some of the special events include the opening ceremonies, donor tribute, 5K run/walk, the TGA Village, and coffee houses. Recipients compete against each other in the 20 medal events, with donor families having the ability to compete in a few as well. If you have any questions or want to get involved with Team Iowa, contact Anna Hobart (Iowa Donor Network) at ahobart@iادن.орг or by phone: 319-631-7436.

What are the Transplant Games of America?

The Transplant Games of America are held as both a celebration of life and a way to honor the families of those who have given the gift of life through donation. The Transplant Games were established 33 years ago with the goal of raising awareness for organ, eye, and tissue donation and transplant. If you are interested in volunteering at this year's event, click [here](#).

Teams at TGA

The Transplant Games of America are composed of state and international teams. Recipients and donors can participate a state team in two ways: the state where they currently reside or the state where their transplant or donation occurred. Team Iowa is organized and sponsored by Iowa Donor Network. For more information on Team Iowa, click [here](#).

The Team Cup Award is given to a team of ten or more competitors who have won the most medals per person during the week. Each medal has a point value, with the total number of medal points being divided by the number of team members.

How do I compete?

If you are a transplant recipient, all 20 events are open to compete in. There are two separate divisions for transplant recipients. Division 1 is for solid organ recipients. Division 2 is for living donors, tissue recipients, cornea recipients, and bone marrow recipients. There is also a division for donor families.

The competitions are separated by gender, with set age groups, and are either individual or team events. Competitors are limited to one individual event per day in addition to any team events they chose to participate in. There is no age restriction on who can compete.

There are a variety of activities to compete in—some athletic and some recreational. There are limitations on who can participate in each competition, so be sure to review the [events](#) for more information.

Team Iowa

Team Iowa is supported by Iowa Donor Network (IDN). There are ways to support Team Iowa either as a competing athlete, a volunteer/supporter at the TGA games, or through financial contributions. Click [here](#) for more information on Team Iowa.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This section of our monthly newsletter will focus on support and resources offered both by the Organ Transplant Center and throughout the nation. Please utilize these as you need them and reach out with any questions.

Kidney line: 319-356-1136

Heart line: 319-356-1028

Liver line: 319-356-1137

Lung line: 319-356-2016

Medicare and Transplant

Medicare eligibility is based on age, disability, having end-stage kidney failure, or receiving a kidney transplant. No other organ transplant or need for organ transplant qualifies one for Medicare. There is a 1-year enrollment window for Medicare from date of kidney transplant. Delaying enrollment can increase chances of higher out-of-pocket expenses for anti-rejection medication. Medicare Advantage plans cover anti-rejection medications, and out-of-pocket expenses are subject to plan.

* For further questions or coverage changes, please contact the Organ Transplant Center financial counselors.

Video Resources

The Organ Transplant Center has put together videos to better explain the transplant evaluation process and provide additional patient education. Please click the links below to access these videos.

- [Kidney Transplant - Patient Education Videos](#)
- [Liver Transplant - Patient Education Videos](#)
- [Pancreas Transplant - Patient Education Videos](#)

Organ Transplant Support Group

Starting in February 2024, the Organ Transplant Center will begin having our support group every other month. The support group will also be a hybrid version—both in-person and by Zoom. Each group will be focused on a specific topic, with speakers followed by time for discussion. If you have any questions, please contact 319-467-8385.

Location:

Iowa Donor Network
550 Madison Avenue
North Liberty, IA 52317

Date:

August 8, 2024
Speaker – Panel of
transplant recipients

Zoom Information:

Meeting ID: 980 4393 7778
Passcode: 247128

Additional Resources

Social Security Disability

- [Adult Disability Starter Kit](#)
- [SSI Child Disability Starter Kit](#)

National Living Donor Assistance Center (NLDAC):
[How to Apply](#)

Iowa Anatomical Gift Fund: [Application](#)

Iowa Donor Network / Writing Your Donor Family:
<https://www.iowadonornetwork.org/transplant-recipients/writing-your-donor-family>