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## Greensboro gears up to host 2024 AAU Junior Olympics

**Skip Foreman**

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Sport Stacking teams compete head to head during the 2022 AAU Junior Olympic Games at the Special Events  
WOODY MARSHALL, NEWS & RECORD

Skip Foreman



**C**up stacking still sounds like something one does after running the dishwasher, but it is gaining in popularity as a competitive sport and will be one of the events returning to Greensboro when the 2024 AAU Junior Olympics begin in 10 days.

For the record, it's called sport stacking. It has a governing body with a schedule of events for 2024, including the Junior Olympics.

"It made news several years ago when it first became like a thing, but these athletes are super talented," said Sarah Lanse, director of marketing for the Greensboro Convention and Visitors Bureau. "It's super fast to cup stack and unstack. I honestly don't know all of the rules for cup stacking, but it is really super interesting to watch."

The cup stackers will be among the 19,000 athletes descending on the Triad. In all, according to Lanse, around 40,000 people will spend some time in Greensboro watching various competitions, including track and field, swimming and martial arts. While track and field will be held at the North Carolina A&T facilities, other events are scheduled for the Greensboro Coliseum Complex and the Greensboro Aquatic Center. Field hockey will be contested at Wake Forest.

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Lanse said that, as always, Greensboro will roll out the red carpet for its guests, but it's going to take help from the community to make them feel welcome once they're in town.

“We are always looking for volunteers. I can’t tell you amounts, but we need a lot of volunteers for this,” she said. “We have different shifts ... whether it’s on the track, there’s registration. There’s volunteer needs at the Greensboro Coliseum complex, so we have different options for different people to volunteer their time.”

For those who want to watch the competitions, Lanse is directing people to **visitgreensboronc.com** and the AAU Junior Olympics page, which will provide a link for purchasing tickets as well as becoming a volunteer. Tickets cost \$20 per day, or \$50 per event for the duration of the competition.

Lanse also said people are not only staying in Greensboro and Guilford County, but in Forsyth and Alamance counties as well. She said when people pack up their equipment and head back to their homes, they will have made an economic impact of approximately \$49 million.

“That money really benefits our whole community,” she said. “It helps with supporting essential services such as education, emergency response and public safety. So, whether you’re a sports person or not, having these 40,000 in town really impacts everybody.”

And, Lanse said, it’s not a bad way to spend part of your summer.

“This is just a great family friendly way to spend some summer days, either enjoy the outdoors or the indoors, depending on which venue you’re at,” she added, “but really see some fresh young talent up close.”

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**Skip.foreman@greensboro.com**

336-373-7316

**By Skip Foreman**

Sports Editor

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