AVCA SPRING VOLLEYBALL OFFICIALS APPRECIATION WEEK TOOLKIT

BOYS | MEN'S | BEACH | CLUB | PRO

MARCH 21-29, 2025

#OFFICIATIONWEEK

AVCA.ORG/EVENT/2025_OFFICIATIONWEEK/

AVCA
AMERICAN VOLLEYBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION

AVCA Spring Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week

March 21-29, 2025

This Toolkit Contains....

Page 1 **Toolkit contents**

Page 2 **Note from the AVCA**

Page 3 **Instructions to participate**
- 2025 #OFFICIATIONWEEK participants list
- How can you engage? 5 steps

Page 4 **Looking for more ways to get involved? Choose an IDEA to put into action:**
- Banners/posters
- Certificates for Officials
- Goodie bags
- PA announcements
- And much more!!

Pages 5 - 8 **Additional resources: high school, club, college and pro volleyball**

Pages 9 - 12 **2021 - 2025 #OfficiationWeek history**

"THANK YOU for showing appreciation to our volleyball officials. Play ball!"

Note from the AVCA

Exciting growth is happening in volleyball with fully sanctioned boys high school volleyball in Kentucky, Minnesota, and Missouri, and a surge in collegiate beach volleyball. In 2025, NCAA beach volleyball programs will exceed 100 for the first time.

Volleyball must embrace its progression as a community with inclusivity, innovation, and integrity.

The recommendation to the AVCA High School Leadership Council to start an initiative that honored the contributions of our volleyball officials and pushed the avocation of volleyball officiating to the forefront was focused on elevating the volleyball **community.** A public demonstration of how much life our volleyball officials bring to our sport on courts and in the sand across our country.

Become a volleyball official - support the sport's growth, earn extra income, & get in on the action!

The AVCA is excited about continuing to cultivate the relationship with our officials and promoting volleyball officiating as an avocation. Explore the opportunity or tell a friend about **becoming a volleyball official** – support the sport's growth, earn extra income, and get in on the action!

For 2025, we have made a slight modification to ensure this initiative reaches across the entire sport in the spring and in the fall. Introducing the **2025 AVCA Spring Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week!** Mark your calendar for a match during the week of March 21-29, and devise a plan to engage in this community-building initiative!

Read more in our toolkit and website.

Happy #OFFICIATIONWEEK! #WeAreAVCA

Kennedy D. Wells
AVCA Director of Membership
Officiating Initiatives State Liaison

March 21-29, 2025

March 21-29, 2025, is the 5th Annual AVCA Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week. This period is set aside to make sure our officials know they are part of the sport. As coaches, you are the leaders; student-athletes, parents, and fans will follow your example to ensure we treat our officials in a manner befitting their role in helping volleyball become one of the United States most popular sports.

CLICK HERE to view the....

2025 AVCA SPRING VOLLEYBALL OFFICIALS APPRECIATION WEEK PARTICIPANTS LIST!!

**Note: This list will be updated weekly during #OFFICIATIONWEEK.*

How Can You Engage? 5 STEPS

1. **CHOOSE A MATCH** during the week of March 21-29. NOTE: Coaches/teams can participate in more than one match during the week. **If your team's schedule prevents participation during this period, contact tara.mcguire@avca.org for special arrangements.*

2. **COORDINATE WITH THE OPPOSING COACH/TEAM** to present a small token of appreciation (e.g., goodie bag or certificate) before the match and coin toss. Include both coaches/teams in the presentation. You can also post signs or banners, such as "Thank you to tonight's officials! We appreciate all you do for volleyball!" **Do not publish officials' names** on programs, flyers, banners, or social media to ensure a positive experience for all.

3. **TAKE PICTURES.** The home team is responsible, but both teams should take photos for social media. A group photo with officials, coaches, and both teams is highly recommended.

4. **POST 1-2 PICTURES TO SOCIAL MEDIA,** and tag **@AVCAVolleyball** and **#OFFICIATIONWEEK**. *NOTE: You may also want to tag your state volleyball coaches and/or officials association, and/or state athletic association.*

5. **WANT YOUR TEAM ADDED TO THE NATIONAL PARTICIPANTS LIST?** After your event, email tara.mcguire@avca.org the team names, event date, and a link to event photos on social media.

LOOKING FOR WAYS TO GET INVOLVED?
Choose an IDEA to put into action:

AMERICAN VOLLEYBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION

Banners or Posters
Hang banners or posters thanking officials near the court or in the gym

Breakfast for Officials
Host breakfast for volleyball officials

Certificate of Appreciation
Present officials with a customized AVCA Officials Appreciation Week Certificate of Appreciation
- **DOWNLOAD** the 2025 AVCA Officials Appreciation Week Certificate as an editable PDF
- **DOWNLOAD** the 2025 AVCA Officials Appreciation Week Certificate as an editable DOCX

Emphasis Sportsmanship
- Place a special emphasis with players and coaches to show great sportsmanship and respect to officials during the #OFFICATIONWEEK match, and encourage the other team to do the same
- Encourage your school's coaches to take the free NFHS's Sportsmanship Course: **nfhslearn.com**
- Share posts from NFHS's **benchbadbehavior.com** to social media during #OFFICIATIONWEEK emphasizing good sportsmanship from athletes, coaches, parents and fans
- Donate a sportsmanship book or video to a local library on behalf of officials
- Invite your athletic director & coaches to discuss sportsmanship with athletes & parents

Goodie Bags
Present a goodie bag from both teams to officials. Goody bags can include snacks, gift cards to local establishments, team or school shirts, whistles, or anything else that represents your school

PA Announcement
Read a PA announcement before the game or during a break in play
- **Sample Script:** *"This week is the American Volleyball Coaches Association's 2025 Spring Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week. We invite fans, coaches, and parents to join us in honoring our officials for their dedication and selfless service in growing the sport of volleyball and supporting our athletes. Let's set a positive example for everyone in attendance. Bench bad behavior, think before you speak, and always show respect to our officials. Thank you and enjoy the game!*

Thank You Notes
Provide written "thank you" notes from student-athletes to officials prior to a match

Video Message
Create an #OFFICIATIONWEEK video for social media and/or the video board during a match

Additional Resources: High School

- **AVCA's #InspireSportsmanship Campaign**
  Spotlights stories of girls and boys volleyball players, coaches and teams displaying exceptional sportsmanship. **Submit your story**

- **IHSAA Free Volleyball Officials Training**
  Read how an free Indiana high school volleyball officials clinic sold out at 100 participants

- **MSHSAA Initiative: Trade Your Stripes**
  An initiative in Missouri, which encourages veterans and active military to become officials

- **NFHS: Become a High School Official**
  Learn more about becoming a HS official, and download the **Become a HS Official State Toolkit**

- **NFHS: Bench Bad Behavior Campaign**
  When high school athletic events are canceled due to bad behavior, everyone loses, ESPECIALLY our students. This campaign includes a toolkit and social media post

- **NFHS Playbook: Recruiting and Retaining Officials & Addressing Behavior in Sport**
  Strategies to address barriers to the recruitment and retainment of officials by the NFHS Officials Consortium and NFHS Behavior Summit; such as, assignments; sportsmanship; work environment; financial issues; mentorship; recruitment; and training for officials

- **RefReps Officiating Education System**
  RefReps providing online officials training plus curriculum for students seeking to become officials in 32 NFHS member state high school associations

- **THSCA Officials Appreciation Toolkit**
  The Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) #OfficialsAppreciation with the AVCA Game Kit includes suggested actions, a PA announcement, an event poster, and a video board graphic

- **Volleyball AVCA/THSCA Officials Appreciation Toolkit**
  The Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) #OfficialsAppreciation with the AVCA Game Kit includes a PA announcement, an event poster, and a video board graphic to help teams recognize officials

- **Volleyball Coaches Clinics include Officiating**
  High school volleyball coaches clinics hosted by AVCA Affiliate Partners now often recognize an Official of the Year, and feature sessions on officiating and good sportsmanship

Additional Resources: Club

- **JVA Officials Reward Program**
  The Junior Volleyball Coaches Association (JVA) Officials Reward Program is designed to recruit, retain and reward officials for working JVA volleyball events. The program is open to all certified Officials, from beginner to most experienced.

- **JVA Officiating Resources**
  Videos and outlines to train teams to make sure athletes understand the rules of officiating and scorekeeping
  - JVA R2 Ref Training Video
  - JVA Scoresheet & Libero Tracking Ref Training Video
  - JVA Line Judge Ref Training Video

- **USA Volleyball Resources for Officials**
  - **Beach Volleyball Referee Resources**, including courses and camps
  - **Benefits of Officiating**
  - **How to become a USA Volleyball Official**
  - **National Officials Development Program (NODP)**
  - **Opportunities to officiate**, including registration instructions for national level tournaments

Additional Resources: College

- **Collegiate Player 2 Ref Program**
  The Division 2 Conference Commissioners Association (D2 CCA) and Division 2 Athletics Directors Association (D2 ADA) "Collegiate P2R" program aims to draw in student-athletes who have concluded their college playing careers to educate them on the benefits of becoming an official

- **Campus Recreation Programs**
  Some college recreation departments offer officiating courses and training for students

- **Indiana Wesleyan Volleyball Fundraiser's Unexpected Benefits Video**
  Players officiating of matches raised funds for preseason trip, but also brought team members and the community closer together. Watch the AVCA interview with Indiana Wesleyan Volleyball Head Coach Candace Moats, and players, Macy Staggs and Julia Price, about their experience

- **NCAA DIIICA Strategic Plan for Collegiate Officiating**
  Division III Commissioners Association (DIIICA) Strategic Plan for Collegiate Officiating including initiatives as Officials' Appreciation Week and **NEWMAC Conference's Volleyball Officials Spotlight**

- **NCAA Say Yes to Officiating**
  NCAA resources to become an official and improve the sporting behavior of the game
  - **NCAA Officiating Interest Form**
  - **Become a Sports Official**
  - **National Association of Sports Officials**
  - **Collegiate Player to Ref Program**
  - **NCAA Intro to Sports Officiating Enrollment**
  - **Arbiter Sports**
  - **RefQuest+**
  - **In-Venue Video Board Graphic**
  - **Officially Human PSA**

- **RefReps Officiating Education System**
  Provides online officiating training, including an introductory course on officiating NCAA volleyball

Additional Resources: Pro

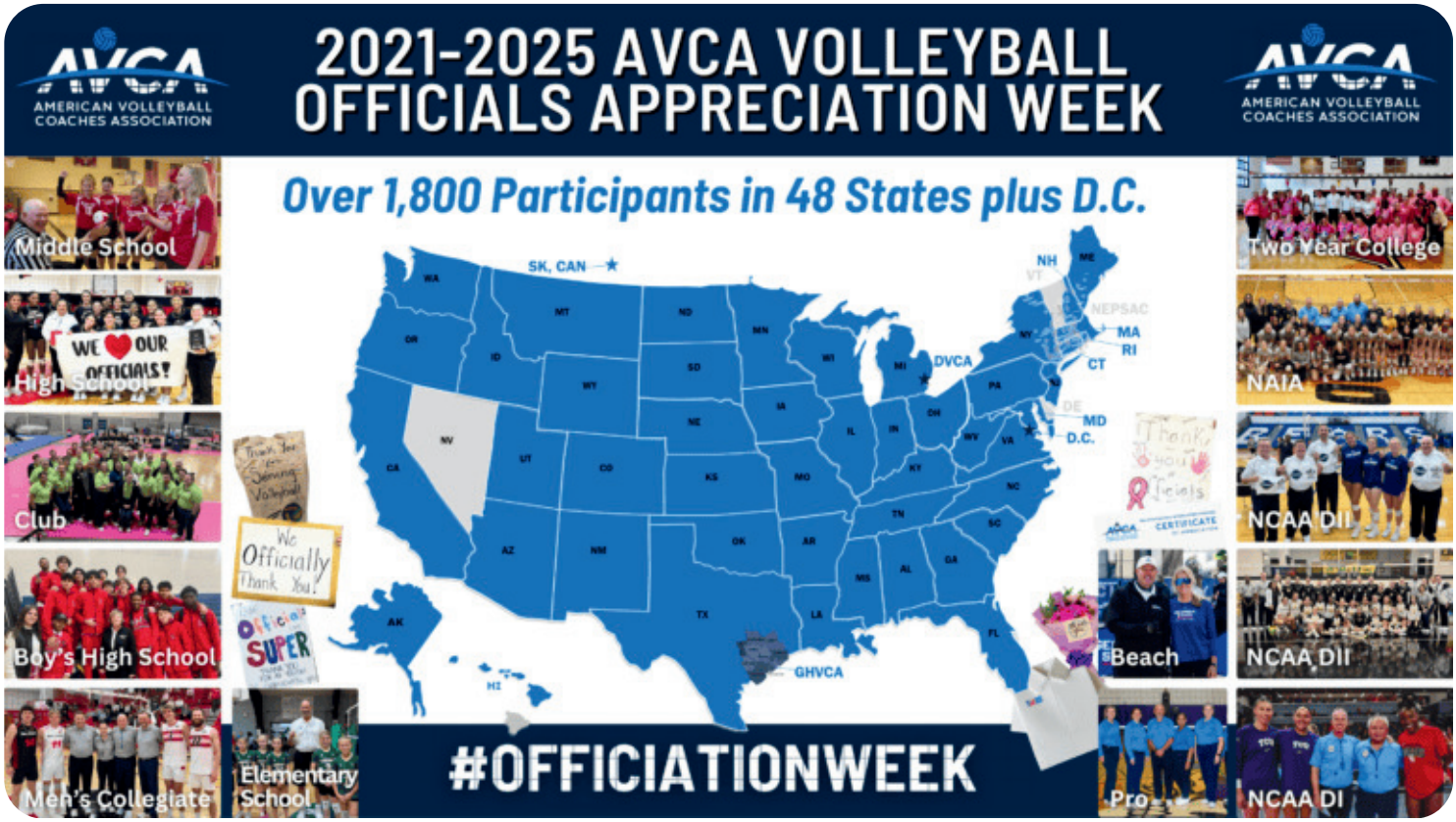
- **National Association of Sports Officials (NAOS)**
  "Say Yes to Officiating" is a collection of free resources from the NAOS designed to help recruit new sports officials, retain the ones already working, instill excellence, and celebrate the officiating experience.
  - **NASO Suggestions for Showing Officials Appreciation**
  - **NASO National Officiating Survey** to gauge sport officiating from official's perspective

- **Professional Association of Volleyball Officials (PAVO)**
  Information from the Professional Association of Volleyball Officials (PAVO) on how to become an official, receive training and advance one's career, and get certified.

2021-2025 #OFFICIATIONWEEK History

Since 2021, AVCA #OFFICIATIONWEEK has become a proud annual tradition among over 1,800 elementary school, middle school, high school (boys and girls), club, beach, college men's and women's, and pro volleyball teams from 48 U.S. states and other nations. The event is hosted twice each year, in the spring and fall; and all teams are encouraged to participate. The AVCA's Annual Spring #OFFICIATIONWEEK is especially for boys, men's, beach, club and pro teams, and 2025 AVCA Fall #OFFICIATIONWEEK is primarily for girls and women's teams. 2025 will mark the first official Pro Volleyball #OFFICIATIONWEEK.

The events are hosted by the AVCA High School Leadership Council. While the athletes, coaches and teams plan and lead the individual official's appreciation events, the national campaign's success is also credited to AVCA's Affiliate Program Partners; high school athletic associations; intercollegiate athletic conferences; public and private high schools and universities; and USA Volleyball Regions who encouraged their teams to participate.



- **2021-2025 AVCA #OFFICIATIONWEEK Report** *(PDF)*
- **Additional Resources: High School and Club**
- **Additional Resources: College and Pro**

2021-2025 #OFFICIATIONWEEK History

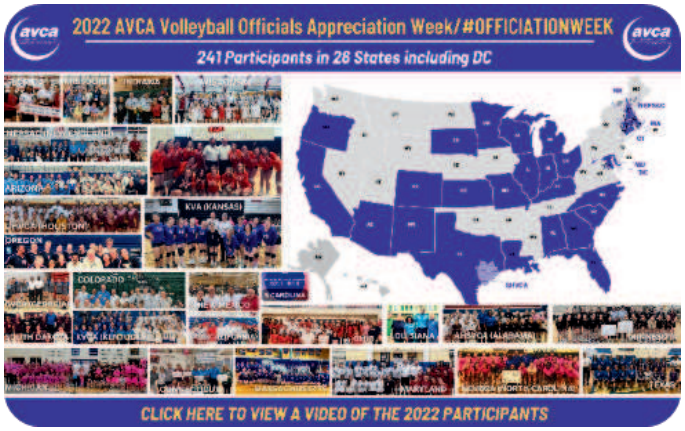
2021 AVCA Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week

#OFFICIATIONWEEK was started by the AVCA in the fall of 2021, in response to the national shortage of high school volleyball officials. This 1st event was promoted to girls high school teams.

2022 AVCA Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week 241 Participants | 26 States

The 2nd Annual AVCA #OFFICIATIONWEEK held September 30, to October 8, grew vastly from its first year to include 241 participants in 26 states. While the week was primarily marketed to girls volleyball teams, participants included girls, boys, beach and women's volleyball.

- **2022 AVCA Highlights Video**
- **2022 AVCA Participants List**



2023 AVCA Men's & Boys Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week: 122 Participants | 23 States

The 1st Annual AVCA Men's and Boys #OFFICIATIONWEEK kicked off as a tremendous success with 122 participants from 23 states. Participants included: Middle School (3); High School (88); Club (4); Beach (2); NCAA DIII (12); NCAA DII (2); and NCAA DI (11).

- **2023 AVCA Men's & Boys Highlights Video**
- **2023 AVCA Men's & Boys Participants List**

2023 AVCA Girls & Women's Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week: 600 Participants | 44 States

A RECORD-BREAKING 600 teams and organizations in 44 states participated in #OFFICIATIONWEEK from September 29 to October 7, 2023! This marked the first #OFFICIATIONWEEK with participants from nearly every division involved, including: Middle School (4); High School Girls (451); High School Boys (1); Club (11); Beach (1); NJCAA (18); NAIA (5); NCAA DIII (27); NCAA DII (43); and NCAA DI (29).

- **2023 AVCA Girls & Women's Highlights Video**
- **2023 AVCA Girls & Women's Participants List**
- **2023 AVCA Girls & Women's Toolkit**

2021-2025 #OFFICIATIONWEEK History

2024 AVCA Boys, Men's & Beach Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week: 98 Participants | 34 States

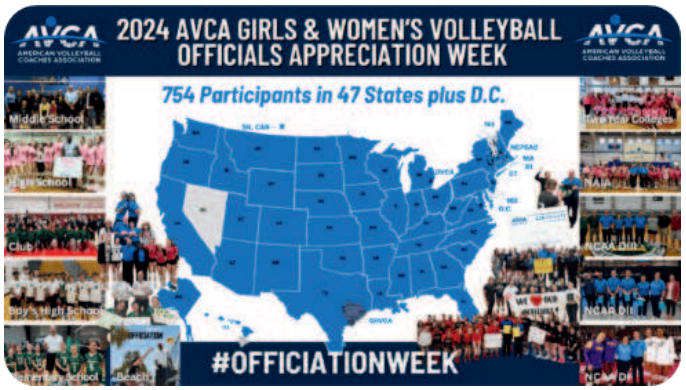
In spring 2024, 98 participants from 34 states took part in the AVCA Boys, Men's & Beach #OFFICIATIONWEEK. 2024 marked the first official beach volleyball #OFFICIATIONWEEK, and the 2nd Annual Boys and Men's. Spring 2024 #OFFICIATIONWEEK included participants from the following divisions: Middle School (4); High School (43); Club (18); Beach (9); NJCAA (2); NAIA (4); NCAA DIII (5); NCAA DII (6); NCAA DI (12); in addition to international volleyball programs.

- **2024 AVCA Boys, Men's & Beach Highlights Video**
- **2024 AVCA Boys, Men's & Beach Participants List**
- **2024 AVCA Boys, Men's & Beach Toolkit**

2024 AVCA Girls & Women's Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week: 754 Participants | 47 States

Over 754 participants in 47 states took part in another record-setting 2024 AVCA Girls and Women's Volleyball #OFFICIATIONWEEK! This year's participation tops the previous record of 600 participants in 44 states set in 2023.

- **2024 AVCA Girls & Women's Highlights Video**
- **2024 AVCA Girls & Women's Participation List**
- **2024 AVCA Girls & Women's Toolkit**



2025 AVCA Spring Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week:

March 21-29, 2025, is the 3rd Annual AVCA Spring Volleyball Officials Appreciation Week, and the first official Pro Volleyball #OFFICIATIONWEEK. 2025 Spring #OFFICIATIONWEEK is a nine day period set aside for boys, men's, beach, club and pro volleyball teams to make sure our officials know how grateful the volleyball community is for the integral role they play.

- **2025 AVCA Spring Participation List**
- **2025 AVCA Spring Toolkit**

2021-2025 #OFFICIATIONWEEK History

Good Sportsmanship has the Power to Inspire

The AVCA's #InspireSportsmanship campaign was launched March 2024, through the AVCA High School Leadership Council. The campaign spotlights stories of girls and boys volleyball players, coaches and teams displaying exceptional sportsmanship. The campaign is an extension of #OFFICIATIONWEEK's efforts to promote sportsmanship through respect and appreciation of officials.

Unsportsmanlike acts spread further and faster than acts of kindness, humility, and corporation. That is why it is more important than ever to teach and spotlight good sportsmanship to inspire others.

Thank you to the many coaches, school administrators, volleyball coaches associations and others throughout the nation who have submitted stories of inspirational sportsmanship in volleyball. The AVCA is proud to feature these stories in the AVCA Affiliations eNewsletter, AVCA website, and social media in partnership with the AVCA's Signature Affiliate, Affiliate and Membership Organization high school partner associations.

SUBMIT YOUR STORY of inspirational sportsmanship by girls and boys volleyball players, coaches and teams. For more information, please contact **Tara McGuire**, AVCA Membership & Communications Specialist.

QUESTIONS: *Contact AVCA Membership and Communications Specialist Tara McGuire at tara.mcguire@avca.org, or visit* ***avca.org.***