

2024 Pro Bowl Games Vote presented by Verizon now open; Tickets start at \$45 from sports page 1



and the City of Orlando, will be a multi-day AFC versus NFC competition culminating on Sunday, Feb. 4 at Camping World Stadium. Fans can visit ProBowl.com/tickets to buy tickets, which start as low as \$45, for Sunday's event, which will also be televised from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. ET on ESPN, ABC, Disney XD, ESPN+ and ESPN Deportes.

Fans can vote as often as they would like to send the league's best players at each position to Orlando for the Pro Bowl Games starting today (Nov. 27) until Monday, Dec. 25 across a variety of platforms, including:

ProBowl.com/Vote

On club sites (i.e., <https://www.newyorkjets.com/pro-bowl-games/vote>)

Social voting — During the final two weeks of voting (Dec. 11 – Dec. 25), fans can vote directly on "X" (formerly Twitter) by tweeting the first and last name of the player, tagging the player's official Twitter handle or creating a hashtag including the player's first and last name. All three of these methods must include the hashtag: #ProBowlVote. During the final two days (Dec. 24 – Dec. 25), social votes will count as double.

Player selections will be determined by the consensus votes of fans, players and coaches, with each group's vote counting as one-third toward determining the all-star players who will be selected to this year's Pro Bowl Games. The NFL is the only sports league that combines voting by fans, coaches and players to determine its Pro Bowl teams. NFL players and coaches will cast their votes on Friday, Dec. 29.

The following is a breakdown of positions and the corresponding numbers of players who will be selected (44 players per conference, 88 total) for The Pro Bowl Games:

Offense Defense Special Teams

- Wide Receivers (8)
- Defensive Ends (6)
- Punters (2)
- Tight Ends (4)
- Interior Linemen (6)
- Placekickers (2)
- Tackles (6)
- Outside Linebackers (6)
- Return Specialists (2)
- Guards (6)
- Inside/Middle Linebackers (4)
- Special Teams (2)
- Centers (4)
- Cornerbacks (8)
- Long Snappers (2)
- Quarterbacks (6)
- Safeties (6)
- Running Backs (6)

Grizzlies sign Nowell and Harrison to 10-day contracts from sports page 3

roster, has appeared in 180 regular season games (23 starts) in six NBA seasons and has averaged 5.3 points, 2.5 rebounds and 1.7 assists in 15.4 minutes for the Phoenix Suns, Chicago Bulls, Utah Jazz, Denver Nuggets, Brooklyn Nets and Portland Trail Blazers since he went unselected in the 2016 NBA Draft. The 29-year-old also competed in eight postseason games with the Los

Fullbacks (2)

A key evolution of last year's reimagined Pro Bowl Games was the shift from a traditional tackle game to flag football and Pro Bowl Skills. As one of the world's fastest-growing sports, flag football was recently confirmed on the program for the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles, marking a historic moment for the sport and the global flag community. The football format will continue to be an integral part of the all-star event, with the NFL's top players showing off flag's fun, fast-paced qualities.

For the AFC versus NFC flag football at Camping World Stadium, the format will be 7-on-7. Organized in partnership with RCX Sports, the NFL's flag football operating partner, and the International Federation of American Football (IFAF), Sunday's culminating event at the Pro Bowl Games will feature an unforgettable AFC versus NFC flag game. The game will take place on a 50-yard field with 10-yard end zones, with scoring plays worth the traditional six points with a one-point conversion from the five-yard line, and a two-point conversion option from the 10-yard line.

Orlando hosted four consecutive Pro Bowl competitions from 2017 to 2020. This year's Pro Bowl Games will feature events across Central Florida, including fan experiences that will celebrate the football season and bring fans close to their favorite clubs and players.

In addition to Sunday's event, ESPN will air the Pro Bowl Skills Show live from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. ET on Thursday, Feb. 1. A made-for-TV event, the Pro Bowl Skills Show will feature the NFL's top players participating in unique competitions that showcase their on-field and off-field skills. This 2024 Pro Bowl Games will feature new and fan-favorite skills, with cumulative scoring leading up to flag football on Sunday.

For more information on The Pro Bowl Games, visit [NFL.com/pro-bowl-games/event-info/](https://nfl.com/pro-bowl-games/event-info/). Fans can stay tuned for additional details on the all-star competition in the coming weeks.

On Location, the official hospitality partner of the NFL, will offer guests elevated hospitality packages for a one-of-a-kind experience at the 2024 Pro Bowl Games, including field access throughout the game, access to closed practice sessions, player introductions and premium seating to the game. Fans interested in tickets and hospitality packages can visit On Location's website at OnLocationExp.com/probowl.

Angeles Lakers last season and signed a 10-day contract with the Grizzlies during the 2021-22 season.

The Kansas City, Mo. native, who played collegiately at Tulsa, also has appeared in 143 games for four NBA G League teams. He was named the 2021-22 NBA G League Defensive Player of the Year as a member of the Delaware Blue Coats.

Tennessee Titans open December with rival Colts at Nissan Stadium... from sports page 1

The Titans Radio Network and Nashville flagship 104.5 The Zone carry all Titans games across the Mid-South with the "Voice of the Titans" Mike Keith, analyst Dave McGinnis, sideline reporter Ramon Foster and gameday host Rhett Bryan. Streaming is available at the Titans Mobile App for listeners in the Nashville market and available everywhere for desktop users.

TITANS LOOK TO STAY UNDEFEATED AT NISSAN STADIUM

Following a three-game stretch of road games, the Titans returned home last week to host the Carolina Panthers. They went into the matchup with wins in all three of their previous games at

Nissan Stadium in 2023. Using two rushing touchdowns by Derrick Henry, they remained unbeaten in Tennessee, defeating the Panthers 17-10. Six games remain on the Titans' schedule, and four of those will be played at home.

Against the Panthers, Henry totaled 76 yards on 18 carries. In the process, he moved into 17th place in NFL history with 84 career rushing touchdowns. He also reached the 9,000-yard career rushing mark (9,074), becoming the eighth player in NFL history to reach 9,000 rushing yards and 80 rushing touchdowns before celebrating his 30th birthday. The other players to accomplish the feat were Adrian Peterson, Barry Sanders, Emmitt Smith, Jim Brown, LaDainian Tomlinson, Eric Dickerson and Marshall

Faulk.

Levis completed 18 of 28 passes for 185 yards without throwing an interception. He was sacked one time, which was the lowest total for him through five starts. This week he can become the franchise's fifth rookie quarterback to start at least six games. The Titans defense produced four sacks and a turnover. Defensive lineman Denico Autry led the unit with two sacks, increasing his team-leading season total to eight sacks. Outside linebacker Arden Key notched a strip-sack, and on the play Jeffery Simmons recovered the fumble to set up a touchdown. Simmons also registered a sack.

THE COLTS

The Colts are 11 games into a new era for the franchise. During

the 2023 offseason, they hired former Philadelphia Eagles offensive coordinator Shane Steichen as head coach after Steichen helped the Eagles to an NFC title and an appearance in Super Bowl LVII. With Steichen as coordinator, the Eagles ranked third in total offense and third in scoring offense in 2022.

The Colts hosted the Tampa Bay Buccaneers last week and won by a final score of 27-20. It was their third consecutive victory. Running back Jonathan Taylor rushed for 91 yards and two touchdowns, and the Colts defense totaled six sacks.

With the win, the Jaguars kept pace in the AFC South race. The 8-3 Jacksonville Jaguars lead the division, while the Colts are tied with the Houston Texans (6-5) for second place.

FBI NICS checks top 680,000 for 'Black Friday'; NSSF alleviates build-up in background checks

NSSF®, The Firearm Industry Trade Association, revealed that the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) completed 680,671 background checks related to firearms for the week leading up to, and including, "Black Friday," one of the busiest shopping days of the year. That figure is down slightly from 2022's total of 711,372 for the same time period. The 2023 total is a 4.3 percent decrease from the 2022 figure.

FBI NICS completed 214,913 background checks on "Black Friday" alone. That is the highest figure recorded for a "Black Friday." The figure approximates firearm sales at retail on that day, although it also includes background checks for other purposes related to firearms such as approvals for concealed carry permits. NSSF will later this week

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release its Adjusted NICS figures for November reflecting only those background checks related to the sale of a firearm at retail.

NSSF has worked with firearm retailers to spread out special sales offers to customers throughout the week leading up to "Black Friday" so as not to

overwhelm FBI NICS on a single day, which can result in longer than normal wait times.

"The background checks reported by the FBI are in keeping with the trends NSSF has seen throughout the year. Firearm sales remain consistently strong, with over a million per month for more than four years running," explained Joe Bartozzi, NSSF President and CEO. "These figures tell us that there is a continued strong appetite for lawful firearm ownership by law-abiding Americans and that firearm manufacturers across the country continue to deliver the quality firearms our customers have come to expect."

Annual background check data shows that firearm sales will typically rise during the final

months of the year coinciding with hunting seasons and holiday sales.

Below are the breakout tables for each day of unadjusted FBI NICS background checks.

Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023:	95,354
Sunday, Nov. 19, 2023:	52,521
Monday, Nov. 20, 2023:	79,970
Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023:	101,199
Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2023:	110,703
Thursday, Nov. 23, 2023:	26,011
Friday, Nov. 24, 2023:	214,913

For more information, visit nssf.org.

NSSF's Project ChildSafe addresses firearm safety and suicide prevention programs

Local leaders are encouraged to make their community part of Project ChildSafe.

NSSF will distribute 10,000 free gun locks for Dallas residents to promote secure firearm storage NSSF®, The Firearm Industry Trade Association, together with the Dallas Police Department and several other Dallas-based organizations, announced the start of "Project ChildSafe® Dallas," a citywide initiative to promote firearm safety and secure firearm storage to help prevent firearm accidents, thefts and suicide throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

Partners in the program, in addition to the Dallas Police Department, include GRITR Range, the DC Project – Texas Chapter, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention – North Texas Chapter, North Texas Chapter of the National African

American Gun Association, the National Wild Turkey Federation, the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and Bass Pro Shops. Efforts to bring in additional stakeholders are ongoing.

The program is modeled after similar programs across the U.S., including in Columbia, South Carolina; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Memphis, Tennessee, and others. Over the course of the next several weeks, NSSF's Project ChildSafe initiative will provide more than 10,000 cable gun locks and educational resources to these partners to distribute to local residents – free of charge and no questions asked. The gun locks and safety literature are being made available through a grant to NSSF from the office of Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, with

additional support from the firearm industry.

The program will include a digital advertising campaign targeted to Dallas-area residents and a billboard on I-35 East to deliver firearm safety messages and tell residents where they can get a free lock.

"We know secure firearm storage works – it is the number one way to help prevent firearm accidents, thefts and suicide," said Joe Bartozzi, NSSF President and CEO. "We want to help anyone who has an unsecured gun in their home take the steps to store it securely and responsibly, when it's not in use, and we're grateful to have so many partners on the ground supporting us in this effort."

Residents can pick up gun locks

at any of the following locations:

- The Dallas Police Department – all locations
- GRITR Range – 7901 26 Blvd, North Richland Hills
- Texas Parks & Wildlife Department – Hunter Education Classes
- Bass Pro Shops - 2501 Bass Pro Drive, Grapevine
- Additional locations to be announced

Project ChildSafe also provides a library of resources on a number of gun safety topics, such as secure storage options, benefits of a lock box and suicide prevention, including a new resource for parents of teens and tips on how to have "the talk" about firearm safety with children of all ages. More information is available at projectchildsafe.org.



YOUTH COURT PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED



- Mentoring Opportunity
- Restorative Justice Based Program
- Diversion Program



"The delicate balance of mentoring someone is not creating them in your own image, but giving them the opportunity to create themselves." *Steven Spielberg*

- Positive mentoring opportunity for area attorneys.
- Receive 2 CLE credits.
- Preside as judge over the court proceeding.
- All practices of law are welcome.
- Volunteer Roles: Judge, Mentor to Youth Prosecutor and Defense Attorneys, and Jury Monitor.

Partnerships: Tennessee Bar Association, Memphis Bar Association, Memphis Legal Service, Memphis-Shelby County Schools (MSCS), and Cecil Humphrey School of Law (University of Memphis)

For more information about this volunteer opportunity:

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Watch for The Mid-South Tribune's "Education & Economics" Special Edition.

Education is colorless.