

Sports & Entertainment

America's teens set to dream big at 2024 Disney Dreamers Academy at Walt Disney World Resort to be held in April

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla., Jan. 15, 2024 /PRNewswire/ -- They want to build rocket ships that soar through the galaxy; teach people nationwide how to make better nutritional choices; and spread even more magic at The Most Magical Place on Earth. They are high school students from the 2024 class of Disney Dreamers Academy, and they all have the same thing in common – Big Dreams!

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Sophia Halm, a high school student from South Orange, New Jersey and an aspiring engineer is featured in a national interview on January 15, 2024. The interview highlighted the news that she is one of 100 students selected for this year's Disney Dreamers Academy at Walt Disney Resort in Lake Buena, Florida. Disney Dreamers Academy, which takes place in April 2024, is a mentoring program hosted annually by Walt Disney that fosters dreams of Black students and teens from underrepresented communities. (Photo: ABC/Jeff Neira) (Photo: PRnewsfoto/Walt Disney World Resort).

resented communities to dream beyond their wildest imaginations.

The selected students were featured during a live TV segment on ABC's "Good Morning Amer-

ica." The segment highlighted one of the selected students, 16-year-old Sophia of South Orange, New Jersey, who is involved with her local YMCA, Girls Scouts, orchestra, lacrosse

and the math team, and aspires to become an aerospace engineer. The full list of students is available at www.DisneyDreamersAcademy.com.

At the four-day program at Walt

Disney World, Sophia and the other Disney Dreamers will engage with business leaders, Disney executives, celebrities and educators, who will immerse them in workshops and seminars designed to supercharge their career dreams. The students will also explore a wide range of career disciplines while also learning essential skills, such as effective communication techniques, leadership and networking strategies.

And, of course, they will spend plenty of time experiencing the magic of Walt Disney World.

"We eagerly anticipate the arrival of another exceptional group of high schoolers from all corners of the country for our 17th year!" remarked Tracey Powell, Senior Vice President of Consumer Insight, Measurement & Analytics and Executive Champion of Disney Dreamers Academy. "These future leaders are poised to embark on a transformative journey, gaining an experience of a lifetime that will propel them towards achieving their dreams."

Each year, the Disney Dreamers are selected from thousands of applicants who answer essay questions about their personal stories and dreams for the future. The students and a parent or guardian enjoy an all-expenses

paid trip to Walt Disney World. The program is an important part of Disney's commitment to support diverse communities by encouraging the next generation to think and dream big.

Since 2008, Disney Dreamers Academy has inspired more than 1,600 students from across the country by fueling their dreams and showing them a world of possibilities as they prepare for their futures. In the years following, graduates have become storytellers, artists, engineers, innovators, journalists and more, and have transitioned into mentors to the Disney Dreamers who follow them.

For more information, visit DisneyDreamersAcademy.com. Regular updates about Disney Dreamers Academy are available on social media at Facebook.com/DisneyDreamersAcademy, [http://www.twitter.com/dreamersacademy](https://www.twitter.com/dreamersacademy) and Instagram.com/disneydreamersacademy.

Watch for The Mid-South Tribune's 29th Annual Black History Month Edition in February 2024!

Tony Orlando announces Farewell Tour; 'Timeless' album is now available



Tony Orlando

'TONY ORLANDO – The Farewell Concerts' to visit Las Vegas, Niagara Falls, Des Plaines and St. Charles, Illinois, Atlantic City, New Jersey, and Uncasville, Connecticut

A Grammy Nominee, Tony Orlando has sold millions of records, including five #1 hit records, "Tie A Yellow Ribbon 'Round The Ole Oak Tree," "Knock Three Times," "Candida," "My Sweet Gypsy Rose," and "He Don't Love You (Like I Love You)"

LAS VEGAS, Nevada - On January 19th, 20th, and 21st, one of America's most beloved entertainers, legendary icon Tony Orlando, will play his final SOLD-OUT show in Las Vegas this week after fifty-one years as a Las Vegas headliner and now at the renowned South Point Casino.

In 1973, Tony Orlando began topping the bill in Las Vegas at the famed Riviera Hotel showroom and soon after began headlining the esteemed and historic Las Vegas Hilton. During his early explosive period performing in the entertainment capital, he headlined most of the city's legendary venues such as Caesar's Palace, The Mirage, and The Desert Inn -- and continued an amazing twenty-five years of residencies in all of Michael Gaughan's venues, including his hugely successful South Point Casino showroom.

...AND NOW FOR THE FINALE!

As mentioned today in Billboard and MSN.com, on March 22nd, Tony Orlando will bring an end to his long and illustrious sixty-two-year live concert performing career at Mohegan Sun's 10,000-seat arena in Uncasville, Con-

necticut. Amazingly, this will mark his sixty-fifth appearance over the course of twenty-three years at the venue.

"We are honored that after such a historic entertainment and humanitarian career, Tony Orlando has chosen Mohegan Sun to host his final live performance," said Tom Cantone, President of Sports & Entertainment for Mohegan. "It's now time for us to give him a standing ovation for entertaining over 100,000 fans at Mohegan Sun over the years, something that only Billy Joel has done, as he will be forever part of Mohegan's entertainment family."

"I am so honored that my last concert will be at my favorite venue on Earth, Mohegan Sun Arena," said Tony Orlando. "My relationship with Tom Cantone, the stage crews, and the staff at Mohegan Sun Arena has been flawless. I also want to thank all my friends within the Mohegan Tribe for making me feel like family and for the opportunity to say goodbye. Thank you for making my dreams come true."

Tickets are on sale now via Ticketmaster.com. Tickets can also be purchased at the Mohegan Sun Box Office.

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Ontario on February 27th and 28th, along with playing a pair of Illinois shows in Des Plaines on March 2nd and St. Charles on March 3rd -- as well as a poignant East Coast date in Atlantic City, New Jersey on March 16th.

Tony Orlando -- a sixty-plus-year hitmaker and standing-

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Brandon Torquato of Las Vegas named Super Bowl LVIII's NFL Play 60 Super Kid; Will serve as Official Ambassador

NEW YORK — Jan. 15, 2024 — The NFL announced that sixteen-year-old Brandon Torquato from Las Vegas will be this year's NFL PLAY 60 Super Kid. Every year, the Super Kid serves as the official NFL PLAY 60 Ambassador during Super Bowl Week, participating in a variety of community events and behind-the-scenes opportunities culminating in an on-field recognition during the second half of the Super Bowl.

Brandon's dedication to living an active and healthy lifestyle is demonstrated through his ongo-

ing participation in youth sports, including as a Special Olympics, Inc. ("Special Olympics") athlete with Special Olympics Nevada ("SONV"), a state Program of Special Olympics. Brandon is part of SONV's Special Olympics Unified Sports® flag football team. Unified Sports® provides opportunities for people with and without intellectual disabilities to play on the same team.

Throughout the year, the NFL and Special Olympics team up to provide opportunities for athletes

of all ages and abilities to PLAY 60 through the expansion of Unified flag football. NFL Foundation grants fund Unified Sports®, including Unified flag football, which has emerged as one of the fastest-growing sports in Special Olympics across the country.

In addition to his responsibilities as the NFL PLAY 60 Super Kid, Brandon will also serve as ABC Good Morning America's Kid Correspondent throughout the week leading up to Super Bowl LVIII. As Good Morning America's Kid Correspondent, Bran-

don will attend a variety of Super Bowl events, including NFL Honors and Super Bowl Experience, where he will have the opportunity to interview NFL players and legends.

Earlier on January 15, Will Reeve of Good Morning America was joined by Las Vegas Raiders punter AJ Cole to surprise Brandon with the news of his selection as this year's NFL PLAY 60 Super Kid and Good Morning America's Kid Correspondent at Super Bowl LVIII.

Email entertainment news and photos to MSTentertainment@prodigy.net

