

**YMCA OF THE USA ANNOUNCES HOST-SITE
FOR 2009 NATIONAL GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIP AND FESTIVAL**
*1,200 Student Athletes from YMCAs Nationwide to Compete at
Freedom Valley YMCA-Phoenixville, Pa.*

CHICAGO, March 1, 2008 YMCA of the USA today announced the selection of the Freedom Valley YMCA, Phoenixville Branch (Pa.) as the official host site for the 2009 National Gymnastics Championship and Festival. Impressed by planning and preparation for this annual event by YMCA staff and their very active and supportive parents group, Y-USA chose the Freedom Valley Y as the future championship venue. More than 1,200 student athletes from over 100 YMCAs nationwide will compete at the event with the support of over 2000 parents and volunteers. This is the first time Phoenixville will host the national event.

"We look forward to celebrating this family-friendly, co-ed event with members of the Phoenixville community," said Mike Eubank Director, YMCA of the USA National Competitive Sports Events. "Not only is this elite competition an event of a lifetime for more than 1,200 gymnasts from around the country who are competing for top honors, but it is also a great opportunity for youth age 8-18 to connect with each other in an active, fun and healthy way."

"We are honored to have been selected to host the National Gymnastics Championship and Festival in 2009," said Kelly Burton, National Coordinator, 2009 YMCA National Gymnastics Competition. "This is an exciting event, which is expected to bring an estimate 1 to 2 million dollars to the local economy in hotel, transportation, restaurant and entertainment. We are confident this event will benefit the community."

Several U.S. Olympians have competed in the YMCA National Gymnastics Championship since the event began in 1938 in Detroit, Mich. including Abie Grossfeld (1956 and 1960 Olympic teams), Joyce Tanac Shroeder (1968 Olympic team) and Linda Metheny Mulvihill (1964, 1968, 1970 Olympic teams). The YMCA National Gymnastic Championships have been held in the state of Pennsylvania five times: Philadelphia 1956, Reading 1968, Hanover 1998 and 2006 and Hatboro 2004.

The YMCA: A Long-Standing Commitment to Health of Spirit, Mind and Body

YMCA of the USA is the national resource office for the nation's 2,663 YMCAs, which serve nearly 20.2 million people each year, including 9.4 million children under the age of 18. Through a variety of programs and services focused on the holistic development of children and youth, family strengthening and health and well-being for all, YMCAs unite men, women and children of all ages, faiths, backgrounds, abilities and income levels. From urban areas to small towns, YMCAs have proudly served America's communities for nearly 160 years by building healthy spirit, mind and body for all. Visit www.ymca.net to find your local YMCA.



YMCA

We build strong kids,
strong families, strong communities.