



2023 Fall Auction Frequently Asked Questions

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Where do the funds raised by the Ames PTA Fall Auction go?

While this will be the first in-person auction since 2019, the Ames Fall Auction is typically hosted every other year and is the largest fundraiser for the PTA. Funds raised allow us to support our school through two full years of family events, teacher and staff appreciation, field trips and enrichment opportunities.

When and where is the Ames Fall Auction?

- **In Person:** Friday, November 3rd, from 6:30 - 10:30 p.m. at Riverside Golf Club located at 520 S Des Plaines Ave, North Riverside. All items will be on site to view and all bidding will be done online. *Please plan to bring your charged phone to the event if you plan on bidding!*
- **Online:** If you can't make it in-person that night, you can also bid on items via the online auction. *We will share a link to the Ames Fall Auction online bidding page on our social media and weekly newsletter one week prior to the event.*

What should I wear?

This coming year, 2024, marks 100 years of Ames. For fun, we are encouraging those who wish to don their most festive 1920s Gatsby attire, as we throw it back to 1924 – the year it all began!

Note: 1920s-themed costumes are encouraged but of course, not required. Please, by all means, wear whatever will help you have the most fun! You'll likely see Ames parents, staff and friends in dresses, jeans, sport coats and everything in between. If you need some inspiration, [check out this post on Instagram](#).

Can I invite friends/neighbors who don't have kids at Ames?

Absolutely! The more the merrier. It's a great way for future and former Dolphin families to get involved. In fact, this is a wonderful event to invite Ames alumni (21+) for a jog down memory lane.

Can I bring my kids to the event?

No, sorry. This event is 21+ only.

Is parking available at Riverside Golf Club?

Parking is available on-site, and we encourage families to carpool with a designated driver to keep our towns safe!

TICKETING

What's included in the Golden Ticket?

The \$45 Golden Ticket is your ticket to a fantastic evening with the Ames community, and includes entry, 1920s-inspired passed hors d'oeuvres, food stations, soft drinks, photo booth, music by a live DJ, and dozens of bidding opportunities on great items. A cash bar is available.

What's included in the Diamond Ticket?

The \$80 Diamond Ticket includes an open bar drink package featuring a fun signature drink, champagne, beer, and wine + everything included in the Golden Ticket. Diamond bar package is from 6:30-8:30pm with a full cash bar to follow.

[Purchase tickets here!](#)

TEACHERS & STAFF

Are teachers and staff attending the event?

Yes! And their tickets were donated by the PTA as a thanks for all they do for our kids! If you'd like to contribute towards sponsoring a teacher you can do so when you purchase your ticket or simply [use this link](#).

How do I bid on the teacher and staff experiences?

Ames teachers and staff have graciously donated their time and wonderful experiences that are truly priceless to students. Each grade and most teachers have created experiences for their classrooms.

BIDDING

What can I expect if this is my first time attending a silent auction?

A silent auction is a fundraising event where participants bid on items without an auctioneer. Bidding takes place through an online auction site over a set amount of time, and when the auction closes, the person with the highest bid wins the item and their payment is automatically processed using the payment method on file.

Do I need to create an online account to participate?

Anyone with a link to our online auction can view it without having an account. *We will share a link to the Ames Fall Auction online bidding page on our social media and weekly newsletter one week prior to the event.* An account is needed in order to bid. More info to follow.

When will items be added to the auction site and when can we start bidding?

Most items will be posted on the Ames Fall Auction site by Monday, October 30th in order for everyone to check out the incredible items that will be up for bid. Stay tuned to find out the official open and closing bidding times for Friday, November 3rd.

If I am the highest bidder, how do I collect my item(s)?

Most items will be available and should be picked up before you leave the event on Friday night. You will pick up your items at the check-out desk. For most teacher experience items you will be contacted directly a few days after the auction and other items may require pickup at a different location or delivery. This information will be detailed in the item's fulfillment details.

SNEAK PEEK AT ITEMS UP FOR BID

What types of things will be up for auction?

The PTA is actively soliciting more auction items, but we're incredibly excited and thankful for the generous donations we've received from the Ames community to date. Here's a sneak peek at some of the items that will be up for bid!

- **Parties and socials with your favorite teachers and staff!**
 - Pizza parties, cookie decorating and more, oh my!
 - Principle for a day!
 - One of a kind art pieces made by each grade!
- **First-of-their kind experiences around town**
 - VIP seating to upcoming Ames events!
 - Private Shopping Event at Vintage Charm!
 - Kids' Birthday Party Package at Ninja Squad Gym!
- **BIG experiences, luxurious stays and great tickets to Chicago's favorite sports teams!**
 - 2-hour Tequila Bus Party!
 - Chicago Symphony Orchestra Home Alone in concert!
 - Marriott Staycation + tickets to Skydeck Chicago!
 - Cubs, White Sox and Bears tickets!

DONATIONS, SPONSORSHIPS & VOLUNTEERING

How can I help make the event a smashing success?

Beyond your participation in the event, there are three major ways you can get more involved:

1. **Donate Auction Items:** The planning committee welcomes auction items ranging from gift certificates, wine, sports or attraction passes/tickets, vacation homes/timeshares, restaurant gift cards and more. We're even looking for unused Gift Cards valued at \$20+. [Make your donation here.](#)
2. **Become An Event Sponsor:** Want to promote your business but don't have a tangible item to donate? No problem! [Visit our ticket page to purchase an event sponsorship](#) or reach out to the Auction Co-chairs (Deanna: deemelvin83@gmail.com and Susan: swolfe447@gmail.com) and we'll pull together a package with you that can be "donated by" your organization.