

**For more information**

Laura Kirk  
Executive director, NWAFF  
laura@nwaff.org  
479.696.7776  
NWA Fencing Foundation: NWAFF.org  
NWA Fencing Center: NWAFC.org

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## **NWA Fencing Foundation to host 3 Swords RYC tournament** **First time for NWA to host a nationally sanctioned tournament**

BENTONVILLE—The Northwest Arkansas Fencing Foundation will bring the nationally sanctioned 3 Swords Regional Youth Fencing Tournament to Northwest Arkansas for the first time Oct. 16-18. The Foundation is the nonprofit arm of the NWA Fencing Center in Bentonville.

Youth fencers coming predominantly from a five-state region (Texas, Kansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas) have been invited but the event likely will include athletes from all over the United States in this qualifying path toward the Fencing Summer Nationals.

The weekend begins with bouts that are not technically part of the RYC as they include junior and cadet epee fencers. Cadets are age 13 to 16 and Juniors are 13 to 19 (but usually a different skill level than cadet). The Saturday and Sunday bouts will serve as qualifying events for the Y10, Y12, and Y14 to earn a place in season ending Summer Nationals tournament in Salt Lake City next year. The public is invited to watch any part of the tournament, which will run approximately 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

Rick and Laura Kirk, owners of NWA Fencing Center, are pleased that the center's Foundation has the opportunity to bring the tournament to Arkansas for the first time.

"Anything that lets people know that fencing is here is good," Laura Kirk said. "It also helps our own kids because they can qualify at this tournament."

The NWA Fencing Center hosts more than 40 tournaments since it opened and is the largest fencing club within 200 miles. Their size and proven ability to run successful tournaments were key parts of them winning the bid for the RYC, Rick Kirk said.

### **About the NWA Fencing Foundation**

The Northwest Arkansas Fencing Foundation (NWAFF) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to offering life-changing opportunities to under-served and at-risk youth, ages 6-18, through the sport of fencing. These advantages include creating more opportunities for college scholarships, nutrition education and obesity prevention.

The Foundation's Fencing for the Future programs help children build life skills through dynamic, interactive lessons, training and competition. It encourages lifelong health and fitness for the entire family and build confidence through accomplishment. Important social, psychological, and physical skills and abilities are developed and reinforced throughout the NWAFF's programs.