Colorado Birding Challenge 2022 Guidelines for Participants

How to Register

1. From the CFO website COBC landing page (cobirds.org/cobc), click on "Register" to open the Pledge-it platform.
2. On Pledge-it landing page, open a personal account and then choose "Create a Team", or "Join a Team"
3. If you are not a CFO member, you may join CFO in order to avoid the Registration fee. If you choose to pay for your membership by check (Pay Later option), you will not be able to register for the COBC as a member until your check is processed by CFO. Learn more at cobirds.org/membership. The fee is waived for CFO members and for all students.
4. If you are planning to participate without a team, we still encourage you to select a team name, and a team fundraising goal.
5. Once you have selected a team name, select a participation category. Category choices are: Automobile, Green, Photo/Audio, Youth, Big Sit, or Non-competing. Category descriptions are available on the CFO website and in the Rules document.
6. Select the County where you will be participating.
7. We encourage you to donate to your team (this can also be done later).
8. Invite some friends to join your team (teams in competitive categories are limited to 2-4 participants) and have them register through the Pledge-it platform (this can be done later). Be sure to provide them with your team name so they join the correct team.

Once you have registered

9. Make a list of 20 email addresses of friends and family who will support you with a pledge or donation.
10. On your personal profile page in Pledge-it, click on "Donors" and follow instructions for emailing friends and family.
11. Consider asking local businesses or a company/organization that you work for or that you patronize to support your fundraising effort.
12. Tell your donors to donate or pledge on your profile page. Make sure they know that pledging requires inputting their credit card info, but they won't be charged until May 15, 2022, after you report your Big Day species total. Lump sum donations will be charged right away.
13. Pledge-it automatically generates and sends a Thank You email to your donors on behalf of CFO. You may optionally email your donors as well via the Pledge-it platform. On the

list of donations, click the "Say Thanks" icon on the right side of each donation to generate a new personalized email from you.

14. Don't be shy to ask for donations. The Gunnison Sage-Grouse are depending on you.

15. Read through all of the COBC Official Rules to ensure you comply with all rules during your Big Day.

16. If you don't already have one, set up an eBird account. Unsure how to do this or use eBird? Check out the resources listed on CFO's Learning page: cobirds.org/improve-your-birding/

17. Set up a Trip Report in eBird for May 7, 2022, so that all your eBird checklists from May 7 will be counted towards your Big Day total. Learn how to set up an eBird Trip Report.

18. On the day before the Big Day, copy the Trip Report link and post to social media and/or email the link to your donors so that your followers can monitor your species total during the day on May 7.

On May 7, 2022

19. Use the mobile eBird app to make complete lists of bird species at each location you visit. Less preferably, you can keep paper lists and add the lists to eBird later.

20. To make your eBird checklists more valuable for science, count birds for at least three minutes at each location, and record the numbers counted for all birds observed.

21. If you are competing in the Big Sit category, break up your eBird checklists into two-hour intervals.

22. Assemble your Big Day list by creating an eBird Trip Report. If you have checklists that don't qualify for your competition category, you can deselect these from your trip report. Copy the trip report link, and email it to cobc@cobirds.org with your team name and category in the subject field. Alternatively, you may create a county-wide day list with an x for each species observed during the day, and share this list with the CFO eBird account for this event, which is COBC2022. Place an asterisk in the details box for any species that was not shared by all teammates (see Rule 5.c.). Remember to provide documentation for rare species that are flagged in eBird. Submissions must be received by 11 pm on May 8, 2022 . This deadline is extended for teams in the Photo/Audio category to 11 pm May 13, 2022 . Remember that 95% of all species must be identified by all members of competing teams. Consult the Rules for more information about this rule.

After May 7, 2022

23. Within a few days of the submission deadline for your category, you will be informed if you won your competition category. Winners will be announced and honored at the CFO annual meeting on May 21, 2022 in Pueblo, CO, during the annual CFO Convention.

24. On your Pledge-it Profile, indicate your species total. This will inform your pledgers the amount they will be charged for their donation.

25. You can also post photos and/or stories to your Pledge-it profile page and share these to social media platforms.

26. Donations may be collected through May 15, 2022.

Colorado Birding Challenge

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1.   Can I participate in the Colorado Birding Challenge on a date other than May 7, 2022?

Yes, but only in the non-competing category. To compete, you must participate on May 7.

2.   If it rains/snows on May 7, is there a rain date scheduled?

There is no rain date. The event will proceed as scheduled, rain or shine. If weather impedes your itinerary, you may move to another county, but you may only report data from one county if participating in a competitive category. You must update the county in your Pledge-it account prior to submitting your total to CFO.

3. How do I participate in the Colorado Birding Challenge?

Please consult the CFO website (cobirds.org/cobc), the Guidelines for Participants, and the Event Rules. If your question is not answered, email your question to COBC@cobirds.org.

4. Can I participate in a county outside Colorado?

   Yes, but only in the non-competing category. Your eBird data and your funds raised are still very valuable.

5.   Do I have to be a CFO member in order to participate?

No. CFO members and all students register for free. Others can register for $50 through the Pledge-it registration page. We set this up to encourage birders to join CFO and enjoy the many benefits of membership. If you prefer not to join, you are still welcome to participate in the event.

6.   If I or my donors pledge an amount per species, why does Pledge-it collect credit card information at the time of the pledge, rather than after I report my results?

This is done to ensure that collection of pledges goes smoothly after the event. The card will not be charged until May 15, after the final number of species is reported. The amount of the donation will be adjusted according to the final number of species you report.

7.   Is all the money raised being used to support Gunnison Sage-Grouse conservation?

No. 85% supports conservation while 15% of each donation will support all of CFO's activities. Registration fees from non-members supportall of CFO's activities . Tips collected at the time of donation support Pledge-it.

8.   The Pledge-it donation page asks for a tip. Is this required?

No. As explained on the page, the tip is optional and goes to the Pledge-it organization. Pledge-it provided this registration and pledge platform to CFO for free.

9.   I am planning to compete and don't want to take extra time to enter in numerous eBird checklists, or wait for three minutes before moving to another location, as suggested in the Participant Guidelines.

OK. However, we encourage using eBird in a way that makes the data more valuable. If you feel like counting birds in one location for three minutes is interfering with your mission, consider converting the count from a stationary protocol to a traveling protocol. This permits adding additional birds along the transect you are traveling. Transects should be terminated when the habitat changes or after 5 miles, whichever comes first.

10. How do I report my results? I don't know how to create a Trip Report or a county-based checklist in eBird.

eBird has many user-friendly instructions available at eBird.org, many are listed on the CFO Learning webpage cobirds.org/improve-your-birding. If you aren't familiar with eBird Trip Reports, you can learn more on their support page on eBird Trip Reports. We also recommend you attend CFOs eBird workshop inn April. If you do not find the answer one of these ways, you may contact cobc@cobirds.org for additional assistance.

If you are unable to use eBird to organize your observations, and report your results, you may still participate in the non-competing category and the money you raise is still valuable and appreciated. However, you will be disqualified from the competition as the judges will not be able to access your documentation of rare birds.

11. I would like to participate in a county where no one else is participating. How do I determine which counties have teams registered already and which do not?

We are working on a fix for this. Stay tuned or check back later.

12. My question is not included in this FAQ. How do I get more answers/information?

Send an email to cobc@cobirds.org. Kerri Schlachter or Nick Komar will respond as soon as they are able by email, or by telephone if you provide a call back number.