



THE CHALKBUCKET

TAG TURNS 40!

LEARN MORE ABOUT US AS WE CELEBRATE OUR ANNIVERSARY!

How it Started:

Jeff Katcher opened TAG in August of 1982. Larry and Lee Ann Denham purchased the business in 1989.

Our Locations: Then and Now

TAG first opened on Polymer Drive off Shallowford Road in 1982, then moved onto Quintus Loop also near Shallowford, where Larry and Lee Ann began working in 1986. After taking ownership, they had a new location on Perimeter Drive in 1992, which they built onto and doubled the size in the early 2000's. The Denham's moved TAG to it's current location on Riverside Drive in September 2007.



Our Classes: Zoolympics:

Boys and girls ages 18 months to 5 years old.

GymED:

Boys and girls kindergarten and older.

Tumbling:

Boys and girls ages seven years old and older.

TAG's Philosophy of Gymnastics:

At the Tennessee Academy of Gymnastics, we believe that gymnastics is one of the great teachers of young children. Through gymnastics, children learn to set goals, accept the challenges to achieve those goals, and the perseverance necessary to attain those goals. Through gymnastics, children learn that failure is a necessary component of any success and that true success is the attempt not the result. We believe that gymnastics teaches children to be self-reliant, self-disciplined, and confident. We also believe that when children learn how to learn their self-esteem increases and they feel a greater sense of self-worth. At the Tennessee Academy of Gymnastics, nothing is more important to us than your child's self-esteem.

Zoolympics: Our first goal is participation, and the second is for the student to learn to receive instruction from someone other than the parent. While working to bolster confidence, listening skills, and active participation, we give the children an all-around physical experience. We engage in risk-taking in a safe and controlled environment so they learn how to move their bodies, creating a foundation for whatever physical activity they choose later.

Gymnastic Education (GymEd): We work to develop strength and flexibility while improving basic gymnastics skills and overcoming fears. The balance and coordination developed in gymnastics are unmatched by any other sport. With our GymEd program, we help each athlete learn how to set goals and work to achieve these goals in a fun, positive atmosphere.

Coach Highlight

LEE ANN DENHAM



With over 30 years of experience in coaching, Lee Ann Denham has a wealth of knowledge and expertise in gymnastics that she continues to use while growing the reach and popularity of Tennessee Academy of Gymnastics. But, more than that, she has a genuine passion for helping children and young adults achieve their potential in and out of the gym.

Growing up in Farmington, Kentucky, Lee Ann did not have access to gymnastics facilities in her youth. However, a chance conversation with her brother while watching the 1976 Olympics piqued her interest in the sport. So when a center opened up in her area years later, she walked into a nearly empty gym, as most of the equipment had yet to arrive, to find mats and a floor beam. The rest is history.

"I was older (14) when I started gymnastics, and I wasn't really all that good," said Lee Ann, "But I enjoyed being pushed to try something new and accomplishing a skill - especially ones I thought hard! I was one of the first girls on the team to learn a kip! I loved swinging!"

As a gymnast, Lee Ann only had three coaches, including Mickey Gottfried. She competed for two years, and the highlight of her career led her to the Class III C level when she qualified for the State Championships. After retiring from competitions, she taught for her home club during her first year of college, where she discovered a love for teaching gymnastics and watching athletes grow in the sport.

"A gymnast learns new skills constantly, and those skills get harder and harder," Lee Ann said. "You can do a round-off. Great! Add a backhandspring! Got that? GREAT! Now add a back tuck. Great job! Now make your flip straight, add a twist, add another twist, and, then, how about two flips before you hit the ground?"

Lee Ann's coaching and personal journey changed course when she met her third gymnastics coach, Larry Denham, who became her husband. Together, they worked in Cincinnati for three years, learning everything they could about business. They eventually moved to Chattanooga and worked at a local gym before purchasing TAG in 1989. Lee Ann and Larry's philosophy for gymnastics shifted as they grew their business and worked with countless gymnasts.

"As most gyms, You want to produce high-level, possibly Olympic gymnasts," Lee Ann said. "But we realized that Elite gymnastics is a whole other world; it is very demanding on the athletes and the coaches. As we were raising our own family, we started shifting our goals to trying to make every athlete in our program reach their maximum potential, based on their desire and ability, from a preschooler learning to walk on the beam alone to a Level 10 making Nationals."

After the passing of her husband, Larry, in 2020, and all the rigors of the shutdown and Covid, Lee Ann continues to push TAG into a future where she can introduce youths to gymnastics so they can fall in love with the sport as she has.

"Gymnastics is not easy; you have to want to work hard to accomplish any goal," Lee Ann said, understanding that love for the sport drives herself, her coaches, and her athletes to work hard and achieve their dreams.

Announcements:



TAG Olympics

To celebrate the end of the school year, our gymnasts participate in an in-house gymnastics meet! Everyone is a winner during this friendly competition, where, from the first flip to the last dismount, students and parents will be having fun! Gymnasts will rotate between all stations while parents watch from the seating area. There will be a limit of 60 students participating per night. Seating will be limited, with only 75 seats available for adult attendees.

Dates and Times:

Tuesday, May 23rd at 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 25th at 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 27th at 2 p.m.

Cost: \$5 to register



Summer Camp

We're only a few tumbles away from school break and three super weeks of TAG Summer Camp! Each day is filled with gymnastics instruction, games, arts, crafts, and open gym time! Siblings get a 10% discount! Register at the front desk with a \$25 deposit.

Dates:

June 12-16th (Girls-Only)
July 17-21st (Girls-Only)
July 31st-Aug 4th (Boys and Girls)

Times:

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Ages:

4 years old and over



Announcements:



Ribbon Week!

The week of May 15th, near the end of term, athletes in the GymEd program will attend their class ribbon ceremony to receive the ribbons they've earned this term.

These represent skills they've mastered and climbing levels in TAG's gymnastics program. The higher the level, the harder it is to earn these precious ribbons!



Photo Sessions!

Take advantage of your chance to get gymnastic photos! A professional photographer will be on hand June 5 and 6! There is a sign-up sheet in the lobby.

COST: THERE IS A \$20 SESSION FEE, WHICH CAN BE USED TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF PHOTOS

Space is limited!

GymED Summer Schedule

Term 6 will begin

May 30th and end July 22nd.

Sign-up for the summer session will begin on May 8th for members/students participating in Term 5 and on **May 22nd** for new students.

