

# Catch It!



▲ 2023 U.S. National  
Baton Twirling  
Championships  
Kissimmee, FL

► 2022 Collegiate  
Champion, Julie Arciola



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**UNITED STATES  
TWIRLING ASSOCIATION**

# 2022 USTA CERTIFIED COACHES

CONGRATULATIONS!

## ALABAMA

Kelsey Cranmer  
Lori Fulgham

## ARKANSAS

Eliese Freeman-  
Crumley

## CALIFORNIA

Jacqueline Meaney  
Hardy  
Laura Russell

## FLORIDA

Lori Leichssenring  
Jennifer Newmann

## GEORGIA

Artisia Bernard  
DeShanique White

## LOUISIANA

Amanda Crane  
Susan Erickson  
Summer Mere  
Lnzi Poole

## MAINE

Heidi Leveille

## MARYLAND

Amanda Morrison

## MICHIGAN

Michelle Brewer  
Paul Cunningham

## MISSOURI

April Ford

## NEW JERSEY

Ralph Cutler

## NEW YORK

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Anna Callen  
Ana Lee Carlisi  
Kyle MacDonald  
Juliana Ott  
Kristina Terwilliger  
Abby Vermillion

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Allison Beaupry  
PJ Burkin  
Jodi Hall  
Danielle Simross

## PENNSYLVANIA

Matt Freeman  
Marsha McFalls  
Jessica Samoski  
Susie Schleig  
Leslie Woncheck

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Amberly Miller

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Michele Pangrac  
Lori Perkins  
Ashley Sneed

## VIRGINIA

Ariana Davis  
Belinda Smith  
Richie Terwilliger



# Top athletes taking twirling to new audiences



*From game shows to cruise ships, twirlers from across the country are bringing baton twirling to new national and global audiences.*

Baton twirlers such as former Men's Solo Grand National Champion and current Board member Jonathan Burkin, have appeared on "America's Got Talent." Others have become involved in the circus arts community. Additionally, through the power of social media, some twirlers have been given incredible and sometimes unusual opportunities to share their love for the sport. Whether it is through television, social media or

production companies, baton twirlers have been welcomed into the entertainment industry.



## Jennifer Marcus

Marcus is the "winningest athlete in the history of USTA" with 43 Grand National titles to her name. After she retired from competitive twirling, she had the chance to perform on stage in Cirque du Soleil's "Volta."

These days, she's performing on a slightly smaller stage, sometimes surrounded by water!

# Top athletes taking twirling to new audiences

Marcus twirls fire on a five-foot-by-five-foot stage at Setai in Miami Beach, Florida. Through circus connections, Marcus has been hired by several production companies to perform at a different restaurants, clubs, and other establishments throughout South Florida. At Setai, Marcus is an “ambient” twirler, entertaining guests as they enjoy their dinner, drinks, or party.

“This requires a lot of agility and creativeness as you never know where the crowd is, where people might be walking, what the ceiling height is, or any changing factors throughout the event,” Marcus said.



## Joel Claudio Martinez

Joel Claudio Martinez first started to reach new audiences through Tik Tok, Instagram, and Facebook. Since then, he has twirled on “America’s Got Talent” and the “Huckabee” talk show. He was also hired to perform

in “The Greatest Show on the Seven Seas” on Sambuca, a Norwegian Cruise Lines ship. He’s also scheduled to perform at an NBA basketball halftime.

“It was just another opportunity to showcase





# Top athletes taking twirling to new audiences



baton twirling and to show the world that we are a sport and that we are here, we are growing, and we are making ourselves better every day,” Claudio Martinez said.



## Cody Carter

Carter, a senior at Arizona State University, has taken twirling to a variety of audiences with his unique twirling style and dance moves. Carter won the Emerging Pro Manipulation award at his first international circus competition and Drake’s “Toosie Slide” dance challenge. Carter was also featured on ESPN by the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Famer, Bill Walton. In December 2021, Carter was invited to perform at Arizona’s largest annual music festival, Decadence.

“It gave me a feel of what it was like to portray a character and be in a costume that correlated with the theme of this spectacular event,” Carter said. “The music was loud with thousands of people there and once again, I got to introduce twirling - with my LED lighted batons - to a group of people that may have never seen it before.”

# Top athletes taking twirling to new audiences



## Mark, Olivia, and Julianna Nash

The LED lighted batons were also a fan favorite on Fox’s “Game of Talents” when many-time national and world champion Mark Nash and his two daughters, Olivia and Julianna, performed.

Originally, the sisters planned to share their talent on stage together. But at a pre-production Zoom meeting, the producers asked if Mark would join his daughters as it was interesting to have a father do the same talent as his children. As the lights came up and the cover lifted, the family brought an energy-filled performance to the show.

“Even our background dancers were supportive before our performance,” said Olivia Nash, “dancing with us backstage and such to help us get our nerves out since it was a live taping.”

Whether it is Tik Tok, television or live performances, baton twirlers throughout the country have shared their love for the sport with new audiences around the world.

“Spreading and introducing baton twirling around the world on television makes me even happier because I hope that baton twirling will one day be in the Olympics,” Julianna Nash said.

*If you or a twirler you know has performed in an unusual event or taken twirling to a new audience, let us know! Just send an email to: [pr@ustwirling.com](mailto:pr@ustwirling.com).*

Written by Haley Lena  
USTA Communications Department.

## Meet Julia Arciola, 2022 Collegiate Champion and University of Illinois Feature Twirler

### *How did it feel to be awarded the Miller Cup?*

When this award was created in 2016, I remember being a sophomore in high school, I was so incredibly excited to twirl in college. I watched in awe as some of the greatest twirlers in the country competed for this prestigious award,

and ever since that summer, I've had my eye on the collegiate competition. I'm so honored to be part of the history of the Miller Cup and share this experience and award with those who have won in the past, and all of those who will win in the future. And for that, I'm very lucky.



### *Take us through the moment they announced your name as the Collegiate Champion.*

Since none of the athletes are aware of the scores for this event ahead of time, I had no idea what to expect. This was one of those moments where I knew I had done the absolute best I could do, so I just had to trust that wherever I was placed was where I was supposed to be. When my name was called as the Collegiate Champion, my world went quiet. It was a moment when I finally felt like every sacrifice, every bleeding finger, every practice, and every tear was worth it. It's a moment I will never forget.

### *What is it like being the University of Illinois feature twirler?*

At the University of Illinois, being the feature twirler is being treated like royalty. The immense support and love I receive from the university, the students, the faculty, the Champaign-Urbana community, and the Marching Illini is like no other. My band director, Professor Barry Houser, has given me so much autonomy to be the feature twirler in my own way. I get to show my personality in every performance, every interview, and most



importantly, in my everyday life. There is no ‘cookie cutter’ way to be the University of Illinois feature twirler, and I hope that my successor finds a way to make this position their own.

## ***What is your favorite part of game day?***

Without a doubt, my favorite part of gameday is running onto the field during pregame. As the feature twirler, I have the honor of getting to lead the 400+ Marching Illini onto the field of Memorial Stadium. As I run onto the field, at the 50-yard-line, I get to hear the announcement “*The Marching Illini Feature Twirler, 2022 Grand National Champion from Boca Raton, Florida... Julia Arciola.*” Being able to share this experience with 400 of my closest friends and looking out into a stadium full of my peers (and most importantly, my parents) is something that I’ll cherish forever.



## ***What advice do you have for other collegiate twirlers and aspiring collegiate twirlers?***

My biggest piece of advice is to trust your gut. I remember four years ago when I was in the same position as most graduating seniors; I was scared, anxious, confused, excited, and worried about what this next chapter of my life was going to look like. Please remember that what is right for someone else, might not be what’s right for you, and that’s okay. Find the place that makes you feel at home — you’ll know when you find it.

*Check out U.S. Twirling on the 50-Yard Line on Facebook for the latest information on college twirling auditions, twirler days, and more!*





# WBTF HONORS SANDI WIEMERS



The [World Baton Twirling Federation](#) (WBTF) recognized twirling icon Sandi Wiemers for her longtime contributions to the WBTF and the sport of baton twirling during the closing ceremonies of the 35th World Baton Twirling Championship, which was held in August in Turin, Italy.

Wiemers is the current WBTF president, a position she has held for 14 years (2008-2022). Prior to that, she served six years as WBTF vice-president (2002-2008) and eight years as WBTF

Board Member Representative for USTA (1996-2002). In all, Wiemers has been part of the WBTF leadership for 26 years.

During that time, the WBTF worked to expand the sport of baton twirling to more countries around the world, which is one necessary step toward being recognized as an Olympic sport.

USTA has also benefited from Wiemers' leadership and dedication. During the past 51 years, she has been a coach, a judge, a member of every USTA committee or commission, as well as a member of the USTA Board of Directors for 20 years, 12 of those years as president. She was instrumental in the development of a new business plan and structure for USTA and the improvement of training programs for coaches and judges. She was also the driving force behind the development of USTA's first website; a computer tabulation program for competitions; an online membership and entry registration system; and an online accounting system for USTA. She was inducted into the [USTA Hall of Fame](#) in 2013.

2022 marked the last WBTF World Championship, as the next World Championship will be hosted by the [International Baton Twirling Federation](#) (IBTF), an organization of both WBTF and WNBTA organizations. It will be held in August 2023 in Liverpool, England. Wiemers also serves as the IBTF president.

USTA congratulates Sandi Wiemers on her recognition from the WBTF and her longtime service to USTA and the sport of baton twirling!

# 2023 U.S. National Baton Twirling **CHAMPIONSHIPS**

*Including the U.S. PreTrials, Athlete of the Year  
and Festival of the Future!*

**July 11-15, 2023**

**Silver Spurs Arena and Event Center  
at Osceola Heritage Center | Kissimmee, Florida**



**UNITED STATES  
TWIRLING ASSOCIATION**



# HEADQUARTERS HOTEL

## 2023 U.S. NATIONAL BATON TWIRLING CHAMPIONSHIPS & FESTIVAL OF THE FUTURE



EMBASSY  
SUITES

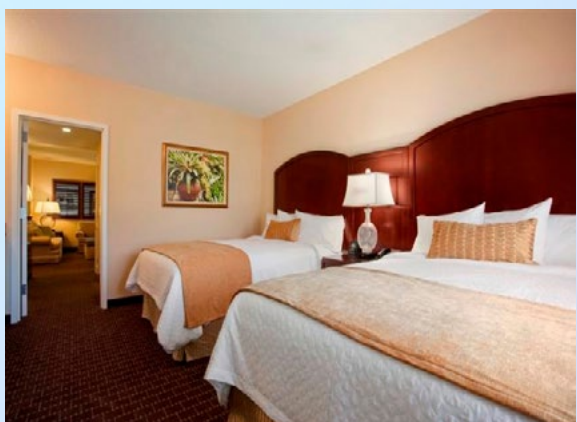
Orlando Lake Buena Vista South  
4955 Kyns Heath Road  
Kissimmee, FL 34746  
(407) 597-4000



### USTA SPECIAL GUEST SUITE RATE = \$149.00

The hotel's suite rates are quoted per suite per night and are subject to applicable state and local taxes at time of check in. Taxes are currently 13.5% But are subject to change. All suite rates are based on single - quad occupancy.

Self-parking is \$15.00 Inclusive of tax. Full-service hotel with breakfast buffet included, on-site restaurant and complimentary evening reception. The cut-off date is June 14, 2023. For individual reservations please call **407-597-4000** and ask for reservations. **Use the group code (ust).** Booking website: [HERE](#)



THE EMBASSY SUITES IS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES  
FROM OSCEOLA HERITAGE PARK SILVER SPUR ARENA.

# HAMPTON INN AND SUITES



4971 Calypso Cay Way  
Kissimmee, Florida 34746  
407-396-8700



## USTA SPECIAL GUEST RATE = \$130.00

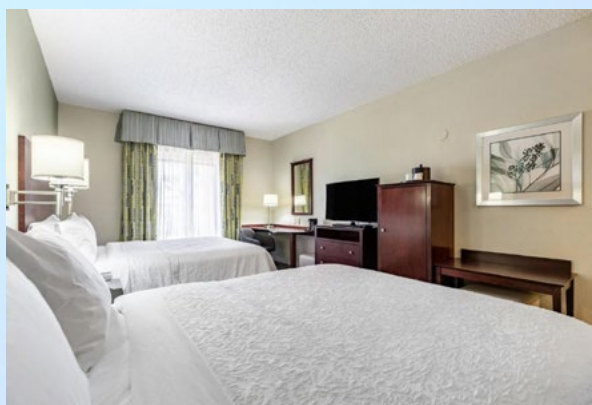
The Hotel's rate is quoted per night and are subject to applicable state and local taxes at time of check in. Taxes are currently 13.5% but are subject to change. The rate is based on single - quad occupancy.

Free parking with breakfast included.

*The Cut off-date for reservations will be June 19, 2023.*

**You may book with this [LINK](#)**

Select the **Special Rates** to the right, a small window will open and enter the code **UNB** in **Group Code**, then close small window and then select Check Rooms & Rates or call the hotel directly at 407-396-8700 and ask for group booking code **UNB** or ask for 2023 U,S, National Baton Twirling.



THE HAMPTON INN & SUITES IS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES FROM OSCEOLA HERITAGE PARK SILVER SPUR ARENA.



# SPRINGHILL SUITES



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Kissimmee, FL 34746  
(407) 997-1300



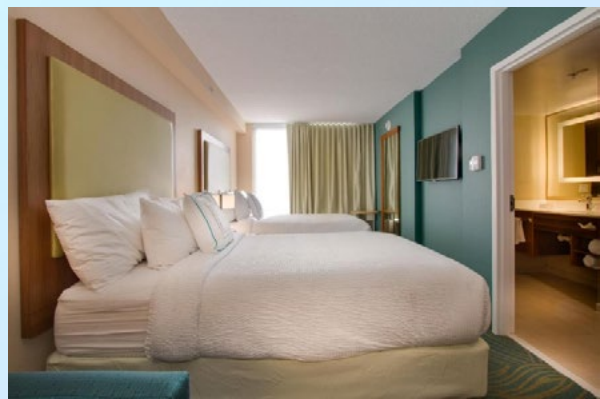
## USTA SPECIAL GUEST SUITE RATE = \$119.00

The Hotel's rate is quoted per night and are subject to applicable state and local taxes at time of check in. Taxes are currently 13.5% but are subject to change.

The rate is based on single - quad occupancy.  
Free parking. Breakfast included.

*The Cut off-date for reservations will be June 10, 2023*

[Book your group rate for 2023 Baton Twirling](#)



SPRINGHILL SUITES IS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES FROM OSCEOLA HERITAGE PARK SILVER SPUR ARENA.

# HOLIDAY IN EXPRESS



5001 Calypso Cay Way,  
Kissimmee, FL, 34746  
(407) 997-1400



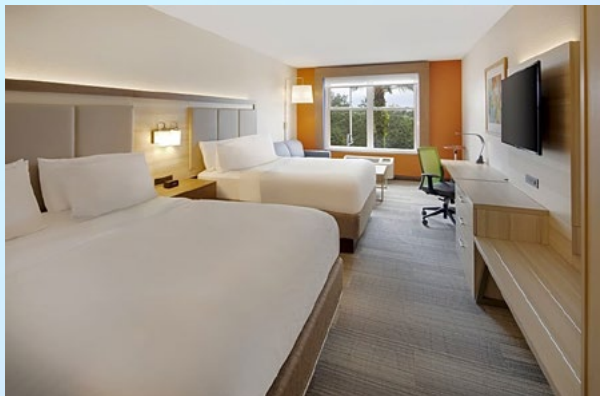
## USTA SPECIAL GUEST SUITE RATE = \$119.00

The hotel's rate is quoted per night and are subject to applicable state and local taxes at time of check in. Taxes are currently 13.5% But are subject to change. The rate is based on single - quad occupancy.

Free parking with hot breakfast included.

*The cut off-date for reservations will be June 10, 2023*

Book online: [HERE](#)



THE HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS IS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES FROM OSCEOLA HERITAGE PARK SILVER SPUR ARENA.



# RED LION HOTEL



RED LION HOTEL®

RED LION HOTEL  
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Memorial Hwy,  
Kissimmee, FL 34746  
(407) 997-2800

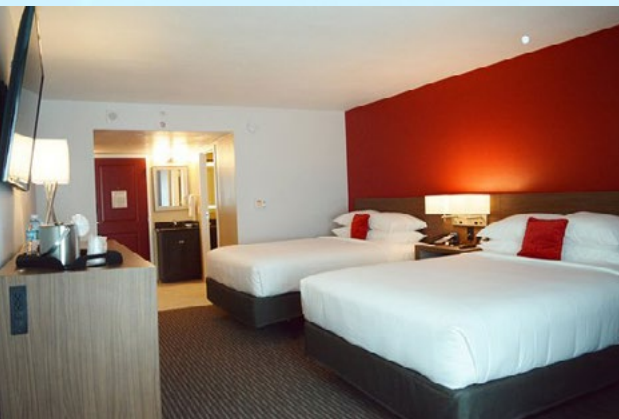


**USTA SPECIAL GUEST SUITE RATE = \$109.00.**  
**Breakfast not included.**

Breakfast available at \$11.00+TAX per person per day American breakfast buffet served in our Restaurant Tortilla Rica,

The Hotel's rate is quoted per night and are subject to applicable state and local taxes at time of check in. Taxes are currently 13.5% but are subject to change. The rate is based on single - quad occupancy.

Free parking. *The Cut off-date for reservations will be June 1, 2023*



THE RED LION IS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 25 MINUTES FROM  
OSCEOLA HERITAGE PARK SILVER SPUR ARENA.

# COMFORT INN & SUITES



COMFORT INN & SUITES  
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SOUTH  
5196 W Irlo Bronson  
Memorial Hwy  
Kissimmee, FL 34746  
(407) 507-3808



**USTA SPECIAL GUEST SUITE RATE = \$125.00.**  
**Continental breakfast included.**

The Hotel's rate is quoted per night and are subject to applicable state and local taxes at time of check in. Taxes are currently 13.5% but are subject to change. The rate is based on single - double occupancy. \$10 extra for triple occupancy. Free parking. The Cut off-date for reservations will be **May 15, 2023**

Call hotel direct **(407) 507-3808** for reservations and ask for **2023 U.S. National Baton Twirling Championship rate.**



THE COMFORT INN & SUITES IS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 25 MINUTES FROM OSCEOLA HERITAGE PARK SILVER SPUR ARENA.



# QUALITY INN



2039 E Irlo Bronson  
Memorial Hwy,  
Kissimmee, FL 34744  
(407) 449-4777

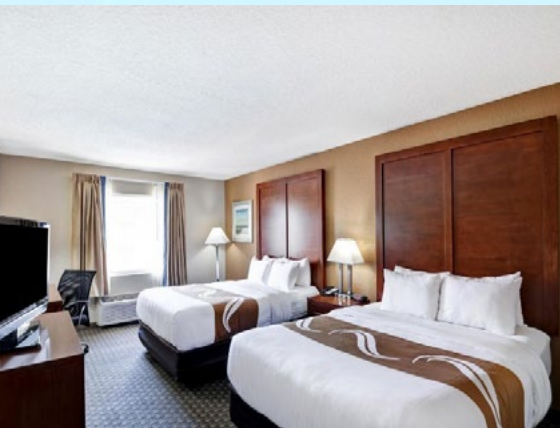


## USTA SPECIAL GUEST SUITE RATE = \$109.00.

The Hotel's rate is quoted per night and are subject to applicable state and local taxes at time of check in. Taxes are currently 13.5% but are subject to change. The rate is based on single - quad occupancy.

Free parking and continental breakfast is included.

*The Cut-off date for reservations will be June 2, 2023*



THE QUALITY INN IS LOCATED LESS THAN 5 MINUTES FROM  
OSCEOLA HERITAGE PARK SILVER SPUR ARENA.



United States Twirling Association

Phone: 321-206-3242

Fax: 509-275-3242

Website: [www.ustwirling.com](http://www.ustwirling.com)

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