

# The Evolution of Zippy

The evolution of Zippy, The University of Akron's mascot, began 54 years ago when the student council - under president Dave Frye and committee for a mascot chairman Bob Savoy (an All-American diver for UA) - decided the University needed a mascot. "Zippy" the kangaroo was officially declared UA's mascot on May 1, 1953.

The selection of the kangaroo for a mascot brought forth the wrath of The Buchtelite and the Akron Beacon Journal as the name was chosen without the benefit of a campus-wide vote. There was support for the new mascot with defenders saying, "the kangaroo is fast, agile, and powerful with undying determination - all the necessary qualities of an athlete."

Dick Hansford, UA student council advisor, liked the kangaroo - one of the finalist names, when Akron chose "Zippers" as its nickname. He recalled the suggestion was also inspired by a popular comic strip at the time called "Kicky, the fighting kangaroo."



No one recalls who made the arrangements for the first costume, but a paper-mache head was produced along with a brown furry uniform that zipped up the back. Pete Demming debuted that first mascot uniform in 1954, at the inaugural Acme-Zip Game - not as "Zippy" but as "Mr. Zip"

The first known printed reference to the mascot as "Zippy" was a 1965 Zip football press brochure. The Buchtelite's first use of the name "Zippy" came Sept. 24, 1965, in an identification of a photo of the cheerleaders listing "Mascot - 'Zippy' - Charles Huettner."

It is difficult to imagine there was dissent back then seeing as how Zippy is one of, if not the most beloved symbols of the University. In fact, during an 11-week-long national contest, Zippy defeated all challengers. Zippy, after a first-round bye in the playoffs, cruised to victories over Syracuse's Otto in the semifinals and Minnesota's Goldy Gopher in the final to become the 2007 Capital One Mascot of the Year.



Department of Athletics  
James A. Rhodes Arena, Suite 83  
The University of Akron  
Akron, OH 44325-5201

# AKRON

## Zippy Appearance Requests



**Book Zippy for Your Event!**

# What Events Can Zippy Attend?

## Campus Events and Receptions

Birthday Parties

Golf Outings

Graduation Parties

Corporate Luncheons

Expos

Elementary School Visits

And More!



Zippy was named the  
2007 Capital One  
Mascot of the Year!

## Appearance Fees

- UA Events: \$35
- Non-UA events: \$50 plus \$10/hour
- Add \$.56 per mile for off-campus trips  
(Round trip from Akron campus to event location)

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Fees collected are used to pay student performers for their time and for Zippy suit maintenance and replacement.

## Important Details

- Appearances are limited to a maximum of 90 minutes in suit.
- Event host must provide Zippy:
  - Changing area
  - Bottle of water
  - 15-minute break after 45 minutes
  - Secure area to store belongings

## ***Request a visit from Zippy today!***

### **Appearance Request Process**

- 1) **Enter request details online at [GoZips.com/ZippyAppearance](http://GoZips.com/ZippyAppearance)**
  - Please allow a minimum of two weeks to process your request.
- 2) **Athletics reviews, follows up and provides confirmation # if approved.**
- 3) **Requestor pays invoice**
  - Pay by credit card (Visa, MC or Discover) or by check made out to The University of Akron (write "Zippy Appearance" in notes section).
  - Fees must be paid in full in advance for Zippy to attend event.

For questions, please contact Mary Lafferty at  
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