

# Special Olympics Iowa Newsletter



**Special Olympics**  
Iowa

“LET ME WIN. BUT IF I CANNOT WIN,  
LET ME BE BRAVE IN THE ATTEMPT.”

MARCH 2011  
INSIDE THIS ISSUE

## Traditional Programs

### SOIA Area Spring Games

| Area                   | Entry Due Date | Event Date |
|------------------------|----------------|------------|
| Central                | March 11       | April 16   |
| East Aquatics          | Feb. 2         | Feb. 26    |
| East Athletics         | March 9        | April 9    |
| East Central Aquatics  | March 4        | TBA        |
| East Central Athletics | March 18       | April 16   |
| North                  | March 17       | April 14   |
| North Central          | April 7        | April 14   |
| Northeast              | March 1        | March 27   |
| Northwest              | March 24       | April 16   |
| South Central          | March 21       | April 9    |
| Southeast Aquatics     | Feb. 26        | March 5    |
| Southeast Athletics    | March 19       | April 2    |
| Southwest Aquatics     | March 15       | April 7    |
| Southwest Athletics    | March 15       | April 12   |
| West Central           | March 9        | April 12   |

### Traditional Programs

Special Programs

Coaches' Training  
Clinics

Basketball Clinic

In Memory

Award Nominations

In Other News

Spread the Word

Upcoming Events

Statewide Partners

## Important Reminders

As you plan your Summer Games entries, here are a few reminders...

- 1) Check events in the Coaches Handbook
- 2) All athletes can compete in **one** sport per day

**The choices include:**

### Thursday

Bocce, Cycling  
Race Walking, Roller Skating  
Soccer, Tennis  
Young Athletes Play Activity Day

### Friday

Aquatics  
Athletics (Track & Field)  
Developmental, Wheelchair

### Saturday

Athletics (Track & Field)

**State entries are due...**

### April 1

Bocce, Cycling, Roller Skating  
Soccer, Tennis

### April 15

Young Athletes Play Activity Day  
(See pg 54 in current Coaches Hand-  
book)

### April 28

Aquatics, Athletics (Track & Field)  
Developmental, Race Walking  
Wheelchair (Review pgs. 56-58 in  
the current Coaches Handbook)



**Note: Room and board rates are \$60 per person. Air conditioned dorms rooms will be assigned on a first-come first-serve basis.**

# Special Programs

## Challenge Days: "Believe and Achieve"

Challenge Day events provide athletes with severe intellectual and physical disabilities the opportunity to compete and have fun. Switch-activated equipment allows athletes in wheelchairs to shoot a basketball, putt a golf ball or hit a volleyball. Individuals who have never had an opportunity to participate in sports can participate in this program.

\*Please mail your completed form to:

Kathy Irving

PO Box 620

Grimes, Iowa 50111

OR Fax to 515-986-5530

(Attn: Kathy—Challenge Day Sign up)



Ruby Van Meter: March 26, 2011: \_\_\_\_\_

Dubuque: June/July? 2011 \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Facility: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2011 Young Athletes Play Activity Days



Young Athletes Play Activity Days are designed for children with intellectual disabilities between the ages of two and seven. Play Activity Days provide social opportunities for children who are too young to participate in traditional SOIA competitions (minimum entry age is eight years).

Young Athletes Play Activity Days are currently scheduled for **March 24 in Des Moines, March 31 in Neola, April 7 in Cedar Rapids and April 15 in Cedar Falls.** For more information or to sign up, please contact Kathy Irving at [kirving@soiowa.org](mailto:kirving@soiowa.org) or by calling 515-986-5520 ext. 111.

## Drake University Hosts 17th Annual Unified Sports Day

Drake University will host the 17th Annual Special Olympics Iowa Unified Sports Day for elementary through high school students on Thursday, May 5. Six activities will be offered, and students may participate in one activity in the morning and one in the afternoon. Each team includes athletes with intellectual disabilities and those without.

Sports offered include bocce, miniature golf, an obstacle course, 3-on-3 basketball, a punt, pass and kick contest and volleyball. Registration and events begin at 9:30 a.m. and will run until 1:15 p.m. Lunch and a T-shirt will be provided for athletes, partners and volunteers. **For more information about this event or to request a registration packet, please contact Erin Hall at 515-986-5520 ext. 119 or [ehall@soiowa.org](mailto:ehall@soiowa.org).**

## Cornell College Hosts 4th Unified Sports Day March 12

Cornell College in Mt. Vernon will hold its fourth Unified Sports Day on Saturday, March 12 at the Small Sports Center. Events offered include basketball skills, bocce, volleyball, soccer kick, bowling and arts and crafts. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.

and the event lasts until about 1:30 p.m.



Lunch and a T-shirt will be provided for athletes, partners and volunteers. **The deadline to sign up is March 1. For**

**more information or to sign up, please contact Erin Hall at 515-986-5520 ext. 119 or [ehall@soiowa.org](mailto:ehall@soiowa.org).**

# Coaches Training Clinics

## Coaches Sports Training Certification Clinic March 5 in Creston



- New and existing coaches are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- ▶ New and recertification training will be offered in the sports listed below.

A training clinic has been scheduled for Sat., March 5 at the YMCA in Creston (1201 W. Townline Rd.) and Creston High School (601 W. Townline Rd.). Please complete the registration form and return it to Rhonda Schwarzkopf by **Tue., March 1.**

9:00 a.m. Aquatics Training at Creston YMCA  Yes, I will attend this training.  
10:30 a.m. Cycling Training at Creston H.S.  Yes, I will attend this training.  
11:30 a.m. Power Lifting Training at Creston H.S.  Yes, I will attend this training.  
12:30 p.m. Lunch at Creston H.S.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Delegation \_\_\_\_\_

\*SOIA will provide water and a light lunch.

**Return this form by March 1** to Rhonda Schwarzkopf at SOIA, PO Box 620, Grimes, IA 50111. Contact Rhonda at 515-986-5520, via fax at 515-986-5530, or email at [rschwarzkopf@soiowa.org](mailto:rschwarzkopf@soiowa.org)

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## Coaches Sports Training Certification Clinic March 16 in Jefferson

- New and existing coaches are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- ▶ New and recertification training will be offered in the sports listed below.

A training clinic has been scheduled for Wed., March 16 at Jefferson Elementary School (401 E. Russell St.). Please complete the registration form and return it to Rhonda Schwarzkopf by **Fri., March 11.**

4:30 p.m. Bowling Training  Yes, I will attend this training.  
5:30 p.m. Dinner  
6:00 p.m. Basketball Training (Skills & Team)  Yes, I will attend this training.  
7:00 p.m. Athletics Training (Track & Field)  Yes, I will attend this training.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Delegation \_\_\_\_\_



\*SOIA will provide water and a light dinner.

**Return this form by March 11** to Rhonda Schwarzkopf at SOIA, PO Box 620, Grimes, IA 50111. Contact Rhonda at 515-986-5520, via fax at 515-986-5530, or email at [rschwarzkopf@soiowa.org](mailto:rschwarzkopf@soiowa.org)

# Coaches Training Clinics

## Coaches Sports Training Certification Clinic March 29 in Webster City



- New and existing coaches are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- ▶ New and recertification training will be offered in the sports listed below.

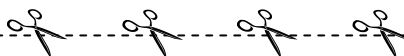
A training clinic has been scheduled for Tue., March 29 at Webster City Middle School (1101 Des Moines St.). Please complete the registration form and return it to Rhonda Schwarzkopf by **Thur., March 24**.

4:30 p.m. Bowling Training \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will attend this training.  
5:30 p.m. Dinner  
6:00 p.m. Basketball Training (Skills & Team) \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will attend this training.  
7:00 p.m. Athletics Training (Track & Field) \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will attend this training.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Delegation \_\_\_\_\_

\*SOIA will provide water and a light dinner.

**Return this form by March 24** to Rhonda Schwarzkopf at SOIA, PO Box 620, Grimes, IA 50111. Contact Rhonda at 515-986-5520, via fax at 515-986-5530, or email at [rschwarzkopf@soiowa.org](mailto:rschwarzkopf@soiowa.org)



## Coaches Sports Training Certification Clinic April 26 in Sheldon

- New and existing coaches are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- ▶ New and recertification training will be offered in the sports listed below.

A training clinic has been scheduled for Tue., April 26 at Village Northwest Unlimited (330 Village Circle). Please complete the registration form and return it to Rhonda Schwarzkopf by **Fri., April 22**.

4:30 p.m. Basketball Training (Skills & Team) \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will attend this training.  
5:30 p.m. Dinner  
6:00 p.m. Athletics Training (Track & Field) \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will attend this training.  
7:00 p.m. Bocce Training \_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will attend this training.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Delegation \_\_\_\_\_

\*SOIA will provide water and a light dinner.



**Return this form by April 22** to Rhonda Schwarzkopf at SOIA, PO Box 620, Grimes, IA 50111. Contact Rhonda at 515-986-5520, via fax at 515-986-5530, or email at [rschwarzkopf@soiowa.org](mailto:rschwarzkopf@soiowa.org)

# Basketball Clinic

## March 8 SOIA Athlete Basketball Clinic Sponsored by the NAIA

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics will sponsor a SOIA basketball clinic in conjunction with the NAIA Basketball Championship. The clinic will be held at the Tyson Events Center in Sioux City on Tue., March 8 from 9:00 a.m.—10:30 a.m. or 10:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Players from the NAIA tournament will serve as clinicians for the training. Benefits to athletes for attending the clinic include learning new basketball skills, improving on existing basketball skills and playing with some of the best basketball players in the nation.

If you're interested in participating in the training, please complete the following form and return it to **by March 1** to Rhonda Schwarzkopf at SOIA, PO Box 620, Grimes, IA 50111. Contact Rhonda at 515-986-5520, via fax at 515-986-5530, or email at [rschwarzkopf@soiowa.org](mailto:rschwarzkopf@soiowa.org).

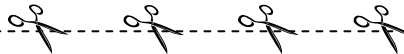
SOIA athletes  
**DO NOT** need to  
compete in  
basketball to  
attend this  
clinic!



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Delegation \_\_\_\_\_

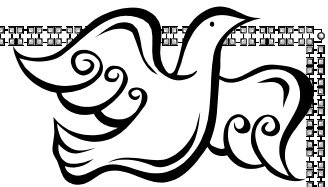
I am a Special Olympics Iowa: \_\_\_\_\_ Coach \_\_\_\_\_ Athlete

Please check which sports clinic you want to attend: \_\_\_\_\_ 9:00 a.m.—10:30 a.m.  
\_\_\_\_\_ 10:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.



## In Memory

**Connie Peterson** was active in Special Olympics for seven years while living at the Cedar Valley Ranch in Vinton. Connie enjoyed bowling, tennis ball throw and walking events. We all will miss Connie's sense of humor, big smile and loving heart.



**Kelsey Deacon** of Iowa City was involved in Special Olympics Iowa, participating in running events and basketball skills. Kelsey's passions in life included NASCAR, the Minnesota Vikings and of course, the Iowa Hawkeyes. She enjoyed reading, listening to her music, and dancing. She was also involved in Aktion Club where she served as the secretary. Kelsey will be missed greatly.

# Award Nominations

## Distinguished Service Awards 2011 NOMINATIONS DUE MARCH 7

The Distinguished Service Awards given by Special Olympics Iowa provide a unique and important opportunity to recognize outstanding members of the SOIA community. You are invited to nominate those individuals and groups from the categories listed below who have made significant contributions during 2010-2011. **Winners will be recognized at the State Summer Games.**

There is no limit to the number of nominations you submit. Please use the form on **page 10** of the Coaches Handbook. Keep in mind that the **deadline for all nominations is Monday, March 7**. The nomination form is also available on our website at [www.soiowa.org](http://www.soiowa.org). Move the cursor over "About Us" and then click on "Award Applications and Winners." If you have questions or need more information, please contact Pam Wagner at 515-986-5520 ext. 104 or [pwagner@soiowa.org](mailto:pwagner@soiowa.org).

**Outstanding Coach**

For the coach in any official Special Olympics sport who best demonstrates the high degree of technical skill, commitment and compassion needed to motivate and train athletes for competition and for life.

**Special Olympics Iowa Athlete of the Year**

An individual award given to the athlete who epitomizes the spirit of a true winner by his or her willingness to help others and who gives his or her best while displaying outstanding courage and sportsmanship.

**Outstanding Family**

For the family who has made unique and lasting contributions to the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities through SOIA and who has at least one family member who is a Special Olympics athlete.

### In Other News...

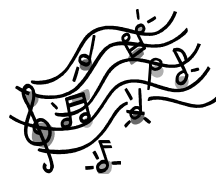


#### Lost & Found

If you misplaced or lost anything during the Winter Games in Dubuque, please call the state office at 515-986-5520.

### Singers Wanted!

SOIA is looking for an athlete who would like to sing the National Anthem during Opening Ceremonies at the Summer Games on the evening of May 26, at Hilton Coliseum on the Iowa State University campus. Please send all nominations to Pam Wagner at 515-986-5520 ext. 104 or by e-mail to [pwagner@soiowa.org](mailto:pwagner@soiowa.org).



## Spread the Word

### Spread the Word to End the Word March 2, 2011



Wednesday, March 2 is the third annual “Spread the Word to End the Word” day. It’s an awareness campaign created by youth, in an ongoing effort with Special Olympics and Best Buddies International, to engage schools, organizations and communities by raising the consciousness of society about the dehumanizing and hurtful effects of the word “retard(ed)” and encouraging everyone to stop using the R-word. In addition to hosting events in March, people around the globe continue to participate in the movement by taking the pledge and spreading the word every day!

You can take action in a number of ways including hosting an event at your school or place of work, emailing or texting friends and family, or by making a post on your social networking page for people to learn how they can take the pledge and join the movement. Resources, including key information, graphics and video clips, are available at [www.r-word.org](http://www.r-word.org), as well as official R-word merchandise at [www.r-wordstore.com](http://www.r-wordstore.com).

**Join others by visiting [www.r-word.org](http://www.r-word.org) today to take or retake the pledge to remove the R-word from your vocabulary and encourage others to do the same!**

## Upcoming Events

### MARCH 2011

March 5

**Southeast Area Aquatics Competition**

*Ottumwa*

**Polar Plunge (fundraiser)**

*Indianola*

March 12

**Unified Sports Day**

*Cornell College, Mount Vernon*

March 18-19

**Mid-Winter Tournament**

*University of Iowa, Iowa City*

March 19

**Polar Plunge (fundraiser)**

*Council Bluffs*

March 24

**Young Athlete Program**

*Des Moines*

March 26

**Challenge Day**

*Ruby Van Meter, Des Moines*

**Polar Plunge (fundraiser)**

*Cedar Rapids*

**Polar Plunge (fundraiser)**

*Iowa City*

**Red Robin (fundraiser)**

Participating restaurants in Cedar

*Rapids, Davenport, Dubuque, Sioux City, and West Des Moines*

March 27

**Northeast Area Spring Games**

*UNI, Cedar Falls*

March 31

**Young Athlete Program**

*Neola*

### APRIL 2011

April 2

**Southeast Area Spring Games**

*Oskaloosa*

April 7

**Young Athlete Program**

*Cedar Rapids*

**Southwest Area Aquatics Competition**

*Glenwood*

April 9

**East Area Spring Games**

*Eldridge*

**South Central Spring Games**

*Graceland College, Lamoni*

**Polar Plunge (fundraiser)**

*Waterloo*

April 12

**Southwest Area Spring Games**

*Iowa Western, Council Bluffs*

**West Central Area Spring Games**

*Simpson College, Indianola*

April 14

**North Central Area Spring Games**

*Fort Dodge*

**North Area Spring Games**

*Forest City*

April 15

**Young Athlete Program**

*Cedar Falls*

April 16

**Central Area Spring Games**

*Marshalltown*

**East Central Area Spring Games**

*Coe College, Cedar Rapids*

**Northwest Area Spring Games**

*Sioux Center*

April 20

**Young Athlete Program**

*Oskaloosa*

TBA

**Polar Plunge (fundraiser)**

*NW Iowa*



**Special Olympics**  
*Iowa*

551 SE Dovetail Road  
PO Box 620  
Grimes, Iowa 50111  
[www.soiowa.org](http://www.soiowa.org)  
515-986-5520

## Thank You To Our Statewide Partners!



Statewide Partners provide a comprehensive level of support of all programs and services offered by Special Olympics Iowa (SOIA). Statewide Partners are prominently recognized in SOIA presentations and publications. Organizations may be recognized as Statewide Partners for financial support, in-kind donations or any combination thereof, and are recognized in many other ways. To find out more about our current Statewide Partners or for information on how to become one, visit our website at [www.soiowa.org](http://www.soiowa.org) and look under Support Us, or contact SOIA Vice President of Development, Jamie Boersma at [jboersma@soiowa.org](mailto:jboersma@soiowa.org) or 515-986-5520.