



Lohse Family Foundation Presents: Special Olympics' Annual Plane Pull Fundraiser to Take Place June 3

Strong enough to pull a plane? Prove it! The Lohse Family Foundation presents the Fourth Annual PlanePull for Special Olympics Iowa Saturday, June 3 at the Des Moines International Airport. Pull times begin at 9:30 a.m. and continue into the afternoon.

Teams of up to 10 will test their strength against a Delta Regional Jet 900. Teams will compete to see who can pull the airplane 12 feet in the fastest time. Divisions include public safety, civic, high school/college, co-ed, Special Olympian, family and general public. Teams will get to pull twice, with their fastest time counting as their final time. Both pulls will be consecutive.

Team captains can register their team at www.soiowa.org/planepull and create a fundraising page to collect donations online. Registration is \$500 for a 10-person team. However, teams are encouraged to fundraise beyond the minimum amount for a chance at some great prizes.



EVENT DETAILS:

WHAT: Plane Pull for Special Olympics Iowa presented by the Lohse Family Foundation

WHEN: Saturday, June 3

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

WHERE: Des Moines International Airport

MORE INFO

LOHSE FAMILY
FOUNDATION FUND



Successful Summer Games in Ames!



Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers, sponsors, family and friends for making the 2017 Summer Games such a success! And congratulations to all of the athletes who competed. We are

so proud of all of you!

To view more photos of Summer Games, visit our [Facebook page](#).



Special Olympics Iowa Honors Athletes, Coach and Family of the Year at Summer Games



contagious spirit and attitude.

Special Olympics Iowa honored its Outstanding Athletes, Coach and Family of the Year award winners during the Summer Games Opening Ceremonies presented by [Hy-Vee](#) May 25 at Iowa State University's Hilton Coliseum. The Scott Bryant Unsung Hero Award was also presented to recognize an individual dedicated to the Law Enforcement Torch Run program.

Outstanding Female Athlete of the Year – Katie Stephan, Dubuque

Katie Stephan participates in bowling, track & field, bocce, basketball and Challenge Days. She has been wheelchair bound her whole life. She does everything her coaches ask of her and is always pushing her teammates to do their very best. She touches a lot of the sports community in Dubuque with her cheering of all teams. She truly exemplifies what it means to be a Special Olympics athlete with her

Outstanding Male Athlete of the Year – Keen Harvey, Des Moines

Keen Harvey has been participating in Special Olympics since 1994. He's been involved with many sports including softball, swimming, basketball, soccer, volleyball, Unified golf and snowshoeing. He always shows up to practice with a positive attitude and a smile on his face. He always gives 100 percent at practice and motivates his teammates to do the same. He has

also participated in several Special Olympics fundraisers like the Ames Greek Polar Plunge.

[Click Here For More Award Winners](#)



Des Moines Register Honors SOIA Elite Athletes

During the 2017 Summer Games the [Des Moines Register](#) announced its Special Olympics All-Iowa Elite Athletes Team for the year.

The All-Iowa Elite team is made up of three male and three female athletes, as well as three pairs of Unified Sports partners for a total of 12 members. Special Olympics athletes were chosen for the team based on nominations written by coaches, delegation managers, teachers and area directors. The athletes chosen to be a part of the team represent the spirit of the Special Olympics Iowa movement and have gone above and beyond to show their dedication to sport and sportsmanship. They represent SOIA in competitions, service to their fellow athletes, and leadership within the organization and their community. [Continue Reading](#)



Casey's Promotion Coming in June!

Casey's General Stores has teamed up with Coca-Cola and will launch a corporate wide in-store fundraising campaign during the month of

June benefiting Special Olympics!

Funds will be raised by the sale of \$1 pinups in-store as well as a percentage of sales from each 44 oz. fountain drink sold during the month of June.

Be sure to stop by your local Casey's store this summer and thank the managers and employees for their support of Special Olympics Iowa!



Drake Unified Sports Day



By Chelsey Kimmel-Kendrick

Special Olympics Iowa's 23rd annual Drake Unified Sports Day was held on Thursday, May 4 at Drake University in the Knapp Center.

Dedicated to promoting social inclusion through shared sports training and competition, Unified Sports creates teams that are made up of similar ages and abilities. The teams are made up of approximately an equal number of Special

Olympic athletes and athletes without intellectual disabilities; these are called partners. The idea behind Unified Sports is to eliminate the preconceived notions and false impressions of Special Olympics athletes.

The event had over 500 participating athletes and Unified Partners from more than 18 schools across Central Iowa. They paired up to compete in several sports, including 3-on-3 basketball, golf, relay races, volleyball, pass-punt-kick football, bocce and more.

This one-day event hosted more than 125 volunteers that helped coordinate the event, including Drake University football players and representatives from businesses across Central Iowa.

The Unified Sports movement has spread to more than 4,000 middle schools and high schools throughout the United States, along with 70 percent of Unified Schools engaging in Unified Sports, too.

Look, Cook, and Eat's Super Special Soups Contest at Iowa State Fair August 16

[Look, Cook, and Eat](#), a digital how-to cooking magazine designed for people with intellectual disabilities to help promote an independent lifestyle, is sponsoring a cooking competition at the State Fair this summer!

EVENT DETAILS:

What: Super Special Soups Contest

Where: Iowa State Fair, Elwell Family Center (newbuilding on the west side of the fairgrounds)

When: Wednesday, August 16, 10:30 a.m.

Who: Open to people with different abilities age 16+

Why: Because cooking is fun and there are great prizes! \$100 for first place! LCE apron to ALL who enter.

How to enter: Follow this [link](#) to find out more information. Entries must be received by **July 1**.

Questions? Contact Susan Hoss at susan@lookcookandeat.com.

Upcoming Events at SOIA

Special Olympics Night at Iowa Barnstormers Game June 17



On Saturday, June 17, 2017 the Iowa Barnstormers will be hosting the Sioux Falls Storm for their regular season finale. The Iowa Barnstormers are offering discounted tickets to any Special Olympians and their families for a fun night of Barnstormers football!

Discounted tickets are only

available for purchase at this [link](#) or by calling Chase Kruckemeyer at 515-564-8458.

This discount is NOT available for walk ups the day of the game. If you have any questions call 515-564-8458 for more details.

Pricing:

200 Ends/ 200 Sides: \$11

Tickets ordered after June 10 will be available for pick up in the Iowa Barnstormers front office the week prior to the game or at Will Call located at the Wells Fargo Arena ticket office the night of the game.

We look forward to seeing you at the game!

MORE INFO

Swing with Celebrities Golf Tournament June 27

The Swing with the Celebrities Golf Tournament presented by Brian Ferentz is a



unique opportunity for individuals and organizations to raise money and support Special Olympics Iowa athletes by joining current and former University of Iowa athletes and staff for a day of golf.

Schedule of Events

9 a.m. – Registration/Check-In

10 a.m. – 5 Person Scramble (Shotgun)

A celebrity (college coach, media personality or athletic department representative) joins each foursome.

2:30 p.m. – Awards Dinner and Live Auction

Dinner provided by Texas Roadhouse

[MORE INFO](#)

Coaches Corner

Coaches' Guide Available Online!

It can be found under the "Competitions" tab on the homepage or at this [link](#).

Trainings

Getting involved as a coach and re-certification is now easier than ever!

Check out our new "Become a Coach" page:

<http://www.soiowa.org/get-involved/become-a-coach/>

You can now become certified/re-certified [ONLINE!](#)

2017 Unified Champion Schools Youth Summit

An opportunity for Unified Champion Schools students and teachers to come together to network and learn unique leadership skills and opportunities.

Monday, June 5

2200 NW State St, Ankeny, IA 500236/5

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m

Event Calendar

Visit our [online calendar](#) for event updates!

June

- 1- Casey's Promotion begins
- 3- Plane Pull
- 5- 2017 Unified Champion Schools Youth Summit
- 10- Lake City/Opportunity Challenge Day
- 10- Annual Area Director Meeting
- 17- Iowa Barnstormers Special Olympics Night
- 27- Swing with Celebrities

July

- 6- Softball Skills Competition- Manning
- 8- Softball Skills Competition- Muscatine
- 8- West Central Conference Softball Tournament
- 13- River Hills Play Day
- 15- East Central Conference Softball Tournament
- 15- 2nd Annual Responding for Heroes Softball Tournament
- 22- Unified Golf- Dubuque

August

- 5- Softball- Team and Skills State Tournament
- 13- Spencer Unified Golf Tournament
- 14- LETR Golf Tournament
- 19- Vinton Unified Mini-Golf
- 26- USTA Iowa All Stars Tennis Tournament
- 26- Cedar Rapids Unified Golf Tournament

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Special Olympics Iowa

<http://www.soiowa.org/>

