



Special Olympics Iowa's INCLUSION Theme



You may have seen the above logo recently at Special Olympics Iowa events, on T-shirts or in newsletters. First launching during the 2016 Summer Games, SOIA's INCLUSION logo was created to continue the conversation of opportunity for all, and to remind athletes, families and volunteers of the values Special Olympics was built on.

Of course, INCLUSION is not just a logo printed on a sweatshirt or posted on a flyer. It's much more than just a word, too. It's a theme. A theme that SOIA hopes will help spread our mission of giving athletes continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community. [Read More](#)

Staff Column: Volunteers Make SOIA Events like State Softball Possible

Often times while in a public setting when someone finds out that I work for Special Olympics, I am asked "When is the Special Olympics?" This question always surprises me since we offer year-round sports competition and training. When answering the question, I generally say what sport season we are in. At this time of year I would say, "We are in the middle of our softball season right now. We just finished two softball skills competitions and three team conference tournaments. Our state tournament will be August 6 in Ankeny." I then follow up with, "We offer 23 different sports and five special programs. Our athletes are then able to practice and participate all year long."



Most people are amazed that Special Olympics events are held year round. It is because of our dedicated volunteers that we are able to offer over 80 area and state competitions not to mention frequent fundraising events. Volunteers are truly the mainstay of the Special Olympics organization. They fulfill a wide variety of positions including those involved with area management, coaching, chaperoning, competition planning and fundraising. Volunteers are committed to our Special Olympics athletes and want to provide them with numerous participation opportunities. [Read More](#)

Casey's Cup Contest

Don't forget there's still time to enter in our Casey's Cup Photo Contest!

HOW TO ENTER:

1. Take a photo of yourself with the Casey's Cup (be creative!) and tweet it to [@soiowa](https://twitter.com/soiowa) with the hashtag #soiacaseyscup16
2. You can also post the photo to the Special Olympics Iowa [Facebook page](#) with the hashtag #soiacaseyscup16

[More Information](#)



SOIA At the State Fair

We will be featured in the **Iowa State Fair Parade** on **Wednesday, August 10!** Check out the [fair website](#) for more information.

Adaptive Sports on the Grand Concourse Day

You can also join us **Friday, August 19** from 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. at the State Fair for a day of fun promoting understanding and tolerance as a way of narrowing the gap between those of varying abilities. Stop by the display on the Grand Concourse to learn more. [Details](#)

Tailgate for Teammates

Nothing brings fans together like a good old-fashioned tailgate! Tailgate for Teammates will offer a sense of camaraderie, inclusion and pride among athletes and their supporters. Guests will indulge in upscale tailgate cuisine, take part in fun and festive sports-themed activities, bid for prizes in an auction, and cheer for athletes competing in upcoming Special Olympics Iowa events.



Event Details:

Date: September 17, 2016

Location: Ron Pearson Center (Formerly the Hy-Vee Conference Center), West Des Moines

Pricing: \$75 for individual, \$250 for team of four

[More Information](#)

Volunteer Recognition Survey

A short, 5 question survey was distributed via email last week. It's purpose is to update our records in order to ensure we are thanking our volunteers for all their efforts. We would appreciate it if you could take a couple minutes to complete the survey if you haven't already done so.

Thanks you!
Special Olympics Iowa Staff

Thank You, Norm Johnson!

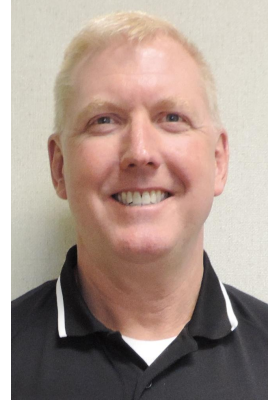
The Special Olympics Iowa family would like to thank Norm Johnson for his service and dedication as the North Area Director for the state of Iowa. Norm will

be moving into a position with the YMCA in Louisville, Kentucky after July 22.

Norm has been involved with Special Olympics in high school and college in both Iowa and South Dakota. He ran the very first powerlifting event for the South Dakota State Games and went on to coach the South Dakota delegation for the World Games in 1995 in New Haven, Connecticut.

There is a lot he will miss about working with SOIA. "Working with the athletes, and giving them a venue and platform to compete is the best. I also really enjoyed bringing our volunteers together to support the various activities, and seeing their genuine enthusiasm and support for the athletes," he says.

With dedication to SOIA, athletes, parents and volunteers, Norm will be missed. SOIA wishes him the very best of luck in all his future endeavors. We know he will continue to promote the power of INCLUSION.



Unified Golf Tournaments to Begin in August

Dedicated to promoting social inclusion through shared sports training and competition experiences, Special Olympics Unified Sports® creates an opportunity for people without intellectual disabilities to join in the sports experience by playing on a team with athletes with intellectual disabilities. Training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding.

Special Olympics Iowa Unified Golf pairs individuals with intellectual disabilities with Unified Partners (golfers without intellectual disabilities) to compete in a team environment. Unified Sports are crucial to our mission as they promote inclusion and friendship for all.

Unified Golf Dates and Locations:

Vinton Unified Mini Golf

Date: August 13, 2016

Location: Vinton Skate & Activity Center

Spencer Unified Golf

Date: August 14, 2016

Location: Spencer Municipal Golf Course

Cedar Rapids Unified Golf

Date: August 27, 2016

Location: Twin Pines Golf Course

Dubuque Unified Golf

Date: August 27, 2016

Location: Derby Grange Golf & Recreation

Akron Unified Golf

Date: September 10, 2016

Location: Akron Golf Club

Muscatine Unified Golf

Date: September 14, 2016

Location: Muscatine Municipal Golf Course

Davenport Unified Golf

Date: September 21, 2016

Location: Red Hawk Golf Course

Jester Park Unified Golf

Date: September 24, 2016

Location: Jester Park Golf Course

[More Information](#)

SOIA Featured as August Charity at Stuff Etc.

Special Olympics Iowa's West Central Area will be involved in a fundraiser at [Stuff Etc.](#) in Ankeny during the month of August.

Stuff Etc. is a quality consignment store with six locations around the state. Each month, the company selects a charity to support with an in-store fundraiser called "Charity Umbrella."

Customers can make a donation in the umbrellas hanging upside down over the checkouts.

The store sponsors a sale the first weekend of the month offering shoppers a discount on their purchases when they donate a dollar to the umbrella. Special Olympics Iowa-West Central Area is the charity that is being supported this August. **During August 5-7** customers will receive a discount on all of their purchases if they donate a dollar to the umbrella at the Ankeny store location.

[More Information](#)



Notre Dame Football Raffle

You could win tickets to the November 19 Notre Dame football game against Virginia Tech at Notre Dame Stadium! Iowa Knights of Columbus councils are selling raffle tickets (\$10 each) now.



For more information, call your local Knights of Columbus Council or contact John Kiegl at jkiegl@soiowa.org or 515-418-7339.

Are You Ready for Some Football? Pigskin Madness Tickets on Sale Now!

We're gearing up for the NFL season and our annual Pigskin Madness tickets are on sale now! For just \$20, you have eight chances to win each week of the regular NFL season - that's 17 weeks of play!

HIGHEST Three Team Total: \$225

Second Highest: \$100

Third Highest: \$70

Fourth Highest: \$40

Fifth Highest: \$35

Sixth Highest: \$30

Seventh Highest: \$25

Eighth Highest: \$20



LOWEST Three Team Total: \$15
Second Lowest: \$10
Third Lowest: \$5

Want to help your friends get in on the fun? We will send you a book of 25 tickets to sell - you do not need to pay anything up front. Just turn in the sold tickets and money to the SOIA state office. [More Details](#)

Questions? Contact Jeanette Steinfeldt at 515-986-5520 or jsteinfeldt@soiowa.org.

Go Over the Edge for Special Olympics Iowa Oct. 26!

The fear of heights is one of the most common phobias in the world...but why let that stop you? Over the Edge is a unique opportunity for individuals and organizations to raise money and support SOIA athletes by rappelling off the 345-ft. Financial Center in downtown Des Moines!



[Register Online](#)

Participants must raise a minimum of \$1,000 to guarantee a rappel spot. Space is limited so fundraise early!

[More Information](#)

World's Largest Truck Convoy for SOIA

The World's Largest Truck Convoy® is a national one-day celebration of the trucking industry, allied partners and law enforcement all working together to help raise money for Special Olympics Iowa.



Iowa's law enforcement officers escort the Convoy from Veterans Parkway (exit 101 off Highway 5) and travel 20 miles to the Iowa State Fairgrounds. Special Olympics Iowa athletes and families, community organizations, companies and law enforcement agencies welcome the truckers as they enter the fairgrounds for lunch and a celebration with awards to recognize participating truckers for the support they give to Special Olympics.

Event Details

Date: Saturday, October 8, 2016

Location: Veterans Parkway to Iowa State Fairgrounds (celebration at Jalapeno Pete's) - Des Moines

Cost: \$100 per participant

Registration: [Register online](#) or mail/fax the [Registration form](#)

[More Information](#)

Discounted Iowa Football Tickets

Iowa vs. Miami, OH Sept. 3, 2:30 p.m. Kickoff

SOIA athletes and their families are invited to Iowa's season opener at great discounted group rate pricing!

SOIA Youth (high school and younger): \$25

SOIA Adult: \$45

Regular single game rate: \$55



ORDER TODAY! Call Bravo Sports at 319-626-8286 or order [online](#).

All orders will be seated together.

Fit Focus

The next FIT (Fitness Improvement Training) Program will begin September 12 and run for 10 weeks, through November 18. "Fall into Fitness" is a Unified Sport Program and each team needs to have at least 20 percent of their team members as Unified Partners. Unified Partners can be family members, friends, peers, coaches and/or staff. We encourage communities coming together to walk together to improve their fitness levels.

SONA has provided a limited supply of Moveband activity trackers that will be able to automatically track the team members' physical activity. The data from the Movebands, as well as data from Fitbit, Garmin and Jawbone can automatically be downloaded onto the Special Olympics Iowa site to assist in tracking your team's physical activity data.

If interested in registering a team for "Fall into Fitness" please contact Bruce Wilson at bwilson@soiowa.org or Gabrielle Magee at gabrielle.magee@drake.edu.



[More Information on FIT](#)

Coaches Corner

Coaches Training Certification Clinics

To see a list of upcoming training clinics, visit our [online calendar](#) and click on the Coaches Training check box on the left. If you have questions or would like to register for a course, please contact the state office at 515-986-5520.

New Cheerleading/Dance Rules and Regulations Available

[Visit our website](#) to access the new Cheerleading/Dance Rules and Regulations manual!

Fall Coaches Meeting Dates

Aug.10- East Central

Aug.24- East

Sept.1- North Central

Sept.6- Northwest
Sept.6- Northeast
Sept.7- West Central
Sept.8- Southwest
Sept.13- Southeast
Sept.13- South Central
Sept.13- Central
Sept.14- North

Coaches Sports Training Clinics

Cedar Rapids

August 4, 5:30 p.m.
Ambroz Recreation Center
Sports offered: Basketball, Volleyball, Flag Football

Davenport

August 11, 5:30 p.m.
JB Young Intermediate School & QC Barbell
Sports offered: Softball, Cycling, Powerlifting

For questions and registration please contact Erin Birkenholtz at 515-986-5520 or ebirkenholtz@soiowa.org.

Manning

August 17, 5:00 p.m.
IKM- Manning High School
Sports offered: Bowling, Basketball Skills, Athletics

For questions and registration please contact Bruce Wilson at 515-986-5520 or bwilson@soiowa.org.

Dunkin' Donuts Cop on Top Event Sept. 9



Cop on Top® events can be held at any popular retail or grocery store in your community. Law enforcement officers and volunteers are stationed at store entrances and collect donations from store patrons.

On Friday, September 9, from 6 a.m.-11 a.m., participating Dunkin' Donuts locations across the state will take part in a Cop on Top to raise money and awareness for SOIA. Make sure to stop by your local store to make a donation and say hi to your local Law Enforcement Torch Run officers!

[More Information](#)

Upcoming Polar Plunge Dates!



- October 15, Davenport
- October 29, Siouxland
- November 5, West Des Moines
- November 6, Fort Dodge
- November 19, Dubuque

[More Information](#)

Calendar Highlights

For a full listing of events, visit [our online calendar!](#)

August

- 6- State Softball Tournament
- 11- Council Bluffs Challenge Day
- 13- Vinton Unified Mini Golf
- 14- Spencer Unified Golf
- 27- Cedar Rapids Unified Golf
- 27- USTA Tennis Competition
- 27- Southwest Area Iowa Open Cycling Tournament

September

- 9- River Hills Challenge Day
- 10- Akron Unified Golf
- 14- Muscatine Unified Golf
- 17- Equestrian State Championships
- 21- Davenport Unified Golf
- 23- Northeast Area Soccer Skills
- 24- Jester Park Unified Golf Outing
- 26- LETR Golf Tournament
- 28- Sioux City Play Day

October

- 4- Southwest Area Bowling: Ages 8-21
- 7- East Area Bowling
- 7- South Central Area Bowling: Ages 8-29
- 8- Volleyball State Tournament
- 8- South Central Area Bowling: Ages 30+
- 11- Southwest Area Bowling: Ages 22+
- 13- Buena Vista University Unified Day
- 13- North Area Soccer Skills Competition
- 13- Central Area Bowling
- 14- MedFest for Ruby Van Meter and Smouse



- 14- Northwest Area Bowling
- 15- Flag Football State Tournament
- 15- Northwest Area Bowling
- 15- Northeast Area Bowling
- 16- Northwest Area Bowling
- 18- West Central Bowling: RVM and Smouse
- 19- North Area Bowling
- 20- North Central Area Bowling
- 20- West Central Bowling: Ages 8-21
- 21- West Central Bowling: Ages 22+
- 21- East Central Area Youth Bowling
- 22- Southeast Area Bowling (Adult)
- 24- Southeast Area Bowling (Youth)
- 28- East Central Area Adult Bowling

Thank You to Our Partners!

Champion Statewide Partners



Premier Statewide Partners



Special Olympics Iowa | 515-986-5520 | www.soiowa.org

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