

Special Olympics
Iowa



Casey's Cup Contest



Special Olympics Iowa (SOIA) athletes and law enforcement officials are being showcased on the 44-ounce cups at Casey's General Stores throughout the state. The cups are available in stores now through Labor Day with a portion of the proceeds from each Casey's Cup sold going to SOIA.

This is the third year Casey's has supported SOIA with the Casey's Cup campaign! Now, SOIA is challenging customers to take photos of themselves with the cups, and each month this summer (June, July, August), a winner will be chosen to receive a SOIA swag item. A grand-prize winner will be chosen at the end of the contest and will receive a free one-night stay at Embassy Suites in downtown Des Moines and other prizes.

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](#)

Visit Our Website

All-Iowa Elite Athletes Program 2016



On Saturday, June 18, 12 Special Olympics Iowa athletes were spotlighted at the All-Iowa Elite Athletes Sports Awards Banquet by The Des Moines Register. The athletes chosen for the All-Iowa program 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.

The banquet also featured keynote speaker [Peyton Manning](#), who gave the SOIA athletes a special shout-out during his presentation and asked them to stand and be recognized as a group for their accomplishments. [Read More](#)

JTC Softball Tournament

Have a softball team looking to play this summer? You're in luck! The fifth annual [JTC Softball Tournament](#) is being held July 16-17, 2016 at Coralville Creekside Ball Park. This year the tournament's proceeds will benefit Special Olympics Iowa.



[More Information](#)

Free Golf Lessons For Athletes

Sarah Bidney, Director of Instruction at the Wakonda Club in Des Moines, will offer free golf lessons to Special Olympics Iowa athletes on August 10 starting at 7 p.m.

Sarah is the 2010, 2012 and 2015 Teacher of the Year - Iowa PGA Section, recipient of the 2015 Youth Player Development Award - Iowa PGA Section and a four time GRAA Top 50 Growth of the Game Teaching Professional (2012-2015).

[More Information](#)

USTA Sponsored Tennis Competition August 27

The USTA is sponsoring a tennis competition on August 27, 2016 at the North Scott High School tennis courts in Eldridge for Special Olympics athletes, ages 8 and up. There will be singles matches played with a ranking of 2.0 and higher. [More Information](#)



Save the date – Saturday, August 27

North Scott High School Tennis Courts

200 S. 1st Street, Eldridge

**For Special Olympics athletes, ages 8 and up
Singles match play with ranking of 2.0 & higher**

Balls: Red foam, orange, green and yellow

2.0-2.9 3.0-3.9 4.0-4.9 5.0-8.0

Check in 8:30 Match play 9:00-3:00

Awards ceremony & pictures 3:10

**Free t-shirts & lunch for athletes, coaches
and volunteers. Plus daytime fireworks!**

**Contact John for a registration form
jterpkosh@movalley.usta.com
completed registrations due back by July 29th**

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.

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](#)

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](#)

SOIA Welcomes New Information Manager



Special Olympics Iowa is pleased to announce the hiring of Tanner Nissen as the new Information Manager - Games and Events.

Nissen was a recent Fellingham Intern with SOIA. During his time at SOIA he worked with both volunteers and games management systems, helped plan and execute Unified Days, and assisted with many other events and projects. He has a strong skill set in technology systems and applications.

A graduate of Northwestern College in Orange City with a degree in Sports and Business Management, Nissen has also completed internships with the Principal Charity Classic and the Sioux Falls Skyforce. Originally from Sacramento, California, he came to Iowa for college and is now happy to call Iowa home.

Please join us in welcoming Tanner to our Special Olympics Iowa family!

Meet Nancy Shannon; Area Director, Coach, Volunteer and Friend of SOIA



Do you know someone who has done it all? We sure do! Our Area Director of the East region here in Iowa, Nancy Shannon, has done just about everything. She's been coaching

and volunteering with Special Olympics Iowa since 1978, has served on the Board of Directors, and has traveled with athletes to State, National and World Games.

Nancy, a native of Long Grove, Iowa, got involved with SOIA while she was working as a special education teacher. When she attended a class where Special Olympics athletes were training her curiosity was peaked, leading her to sign up to volunteer for a Special Olympics event. It wasn't long before she was hooked and started coaching.

Today, Nancy serves as the Area Director for SOIA's East region. Her job entails many duties, including organizing and running four or five events each year from things like bowling and track and field to golf tournaments and Challenge Days. "I have a really good group of coaches that work well together and really care about the athletes," she says. [Read More](#)

Continued INCLUSION for SOIA Athletes

Hello Special Olympics family!

I hope you are having a great summer! Ours has certainly been a busy and exciting one thus far. For those of you who were able to attend Summer Games, you experienced great weather, saw many of your good friends and, in the words of many, "experienced the best Summer Games we've had in a long time."

As always, the city of Ames and ISU opened their doors, arms-and, most importantly, their hearts to all of us as they have for over 30 years. Medals and ribbons were proudly displayed by our friends and they happily shared stories of triumphs.



But the best thing I saw was the joy of friendship among all who were there. Certainly our athletes led the pack (as they should), sharing high-fives, hugs and displaying smiles that were a mile wide. The same enthusiasm was obvious in our family members and our volunteers. Athletes were

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

"March to Summer Games" is completed and congratulations are in order to the 11 Unified Teams and 110 Special Olympics Athletes and Unified Partners that were a part of that campaign. We are in preparation for our upcoming campaign..."Fall into Fitness"!

"Fall into Fitness" will be a ten week program and we need you to build your Unified Teams to compete for prizes and to continue to track your individual and team mileage. Remember that at least 20 percent of your Unified Team must be Unified Partners and we encourage the inclusion of family members and classmates to build your teams.

Stay tuned for the registration period in September and we hope to see even more teams participating in our FIT Unified Sport Walking Club!

[Details about 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.

East Central Area Coaches Meeting

The East Central area coaches meeting will be held Wednesday, August 10 at Ambroz Recreation Center in Cedar Rapids at 5:30 p.m.

Coaches Sports Training Clinics

Coaches Sports Training Clinics will be held August 4 in Cedar Rapids and August 11 in Daveport. For questions and registration please contact Erin Birkenholtz at 515-986-5520 or ebirkenholtz@soiowa.org

Coaches' Guide Now on SOIA Website

The new and improved Coaches' Guide can now be found on the SOIA website. In the Competitions drop list, click on Participation Forms, and the link is on the left in the orange Helpful Links section. [CLICK HERE TO SEE THE GUIDE](#)

Reminder

When sending the state office a physical for an athlete, the easiest way to turn it in is to email them to physicals@soiowa.org! Please contact [Teri Barthelmes](#) at the state office with any questions or concerns.

Calendar Highlights

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



July

- 8 - Softball Skills- West Regional - Manning
- 9 - Conference Softball Tournament - Des Moines
- 9 - Conference Softball Tournament - Cedar Rapids
- 14 - Softball Skills- East Regional- Muscatine
- 16-17 - JTC Softball Tournament

August

- 4- Coaches Sports Training Clinic
- 6 - State Softball Tournament
- 10 - East Central Area Coaches Meeting
- 11 - Council Bluffs Challenge Day
- 11- Coaches Sports Training Clinic
- 13 - Vinton Unified Mini Golf
- 14 - Spencer Unified Golf
- 20 - Cedar Rapids Unified Golf
- 24- East Area Coaches Meeting
- 27 - USTA/Iowa All-Stars Tennis Tournament

September

- 10 - Akron Unified Golf
 - 14 - Muscatine Unified Golf
 - 17 - Equestrian- State Championship
 - 17 - Granger (Jester Park) Unified Golf
 - 21 - Davenport Unified Golf
 - 24 - Jester Park Unified Golf Outing
 - 26 - LETR Golf Tournament
 - 28 - Sioux City Play Day
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Special Olympics Iowa | 515-986-5520 | www.soiowa.org

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