



## Special Olympics Founder to be Honored at 2017 ESPYS

*From [Special Olympics North America](#):*

Eunice Kennedy Shriver dedicated her life to championing the rights and acceptance of people with intellectual disabilities. Her legacy lives on through Special Olympics, the global movement she founded in 1968 that harnesses the transformative power of sports to empower individuals with intellectual disabilities to become accepted and celebrated members of society.



To honor her work and her creation of Special Olympics, Eunice Kennedy Shriver will be posthumously honored with the Arthur Ashe Courage Award at The 25th ESPYS Presented by Capital One on Wednesday, July 12. Timothy Shriver, one of Shriver's five children and Chairman of Special Olympics, will accept the award on her behalf. The award is sponsored by Cadillac. [Continue Reading](#)

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### **Athlete Competes in 2017 Principal Charity Classic**

For the third year in a row, Special Olympics Iowa athlete Brian Rolek was asked to take part in the [Principal Charity Classic](#).



On Tuesday, June 6 Rolek tee'd off for a fun round of golf with some special guests during the Pro-Am portion of the Classic. A Pro-Am takes place before the professional event and joins ordinary golfers on a team with a PGA Tour golfer. This year Rolek teamed up with pro Rod Spittle.

When he's not golfing and participating in other SOIA sports, Rolek works full-time at the YMCA, enjoys hunting with

his brothers, and often volunteers at Special Olympics fundraisers.

Rolek says he had a great time golfing at the event. Congratulations on a great day of golf, Brian!  
[More](#)



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## Meet Wendy Olinger: New SOIA Director of Athlete Initiatives

Special Olympics Iowa is excited to introduce its new Director of Athlete Initiatives, Wendy Olinger.

Wendy has been a supporter of Special Olympics for 23 years. She has served as a volunteer and coach in the areas of bowling, basketball, skiing, swimming, track/field, cheerleading, cycling, Challenge Days and golf. She is a graduate of the University of Northern Iowa, where she studied special





education. She also has a master's degree in deaf education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Before coming to SOIA, Olinger worked as a severe and profound special education teacher in Marshalltown, Iowa for 13 years. Olinger has also worked at various day camps and respite camps for individuals with disabilities across the state of Iowa.

As Director of Athlete Initiatives, Olinger will be responsible for Special Programs like [Play Days](#), [Challenge Days](#) and [Healthy Athletes](#). She will also be working closely with SOIA [Global Messengers](#), helping them write speeches and be leaders in the community.

Olinger is excited to join the SOIA staff. "I want to broaden my scope of working with kids and adults from all across the state and encourage individuals to become athletes and participate in any sports that they are capable of participating in," she says. Olinger's favorite part about Special Olympics is seeing how passionate athletes are about competing at an event.

Outside of work, Olinger can be found spending time with her 16-year-old daughter, Alexandra.

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## Des Moines Register Honors SOIA Elite Athletes

On Saturday, June 24th the [Des Moines Register](#) honored the 12 Special Olympics Iowa athletes they chose to be on the [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.

At the event, the Register gave awards for Male, Female, and Unified Team of the year. The winners also got a chance to meet the evening's guest speaker, Shaquille O'Neal!

Congratulations to the following winners from SOIA:

Isaac Baldus, Male Athlete of the Year  
Madison Ebrecht, Female Athlete of the Year  
Kaitlin Bockenstedt and Chloe Meyers, Unified Team of the Year

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.

[More](#)

[View more All-Iowa Sports Awards Coverage](#)



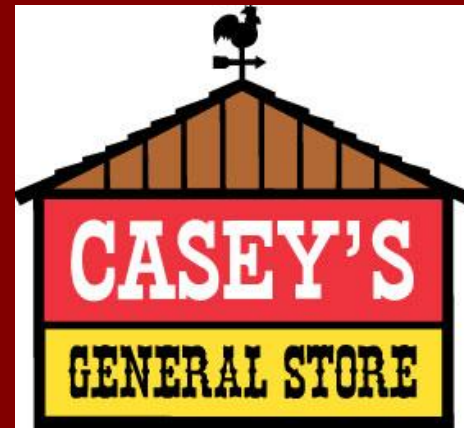


## Thank You Casey's!

We would like to thank our Statewide Partner **Casey's General Stores** for their support in the month of June with their corporate wide in-store fundraising campaign benefiting Special Olympics!

In partnership with Coca-Cola, funds raised by the sale of \$1 pinups in-stores as well as a percentage of sales from each 44 oz. fountain drink sold during the month of June will be donated to Special Olympics in all states with Casey's locations.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Casey's promotion and thank you to the store managers and employees for their support of Special Olympics!



## Staff Column: SOIA Holds First Unified Champion Schools Youth Summit



*By Bryan Coffey, Director of Unified Sports and Volunteers*

On June 5, 2017, Special Olympics Iowa hosted its first-ever Unified Champion Schools Youth Summit. This was an exciting opportunity for student youth leadership teams to interact with other student leaders from around the state of Iowa. Our main objective for the 2017 Youth Summit was to help students to excel in

leadership roles within their schools.

Four Iowa high schools participated in this program. These schools each represented different regions of our state, which encouraged great conversations and learning opportunities. The schools were:

- Ankeny Centennial High School (West Central Region)
- Spencer High School (North Region)
- Wayne Community High School ( South Central Region)
- Western Dubuque High school ( East Region)

[Continue Reading](#)

[View a video about the 2017 Youth Summit!](#)

## Pigskin Madness Tickets Available NOW!

**lowa Law Enforcement Torch Run 2015 Pigskin Madness**

Your contribution helps support Special Olympics Iowa... 17 weeks for \$20

Note: Ticket must be turned in by noon Friday, September 4, 2015 to be eligible for Week 1 prizes.

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Team 1	4	3	6	11	5	4		7	13	5	4	13	11				
Team 2	3	19	18	2	20	23						28	9	31	32		
Team 3																	

Office: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Partial tickets may ONLY be purchased through the Special Olympics Iowa State Office, (515) 986-0520

**Teams**

1. Arizona
2. Atlanta
3. Baltimore
4. Buffalo
5. Carolina
6. Chicago
7. Cincinnati
8. Cleveland
9. Dallas
10. Denver
11. Detroit
12. Green Bay
13. Houston Texans
14. Indianapolis Colts
15. Jacksonville Jaguars
16. Kansas City Chiefs
17. Las Vegas Raiders
18. Minnesota Vikings
19. New England Patriots
20. New Orleans Saints
21. New York Giants
22. New York Jets
23. Oakland Raiders
24. Philadelphia Eagles
25. Pittsburgh Steelers
26. San Diego Chargers
27. San Francisco 49ers
28. Seattle Seahawks
29. Tampa Bay Buccaneers
30. Tennessee Titans
31. Washington Redskins
32. Tampa Bay Buccaneers

It's almost that time of year again!

This annual fundraiser combines two of our favorite things...NFL football and raising money for Special

Olympics Iowa! For just \$20, you have 8 chances to win each week of the regular NFL football season – that's 17 weeks of play!

Each raffle ticket will have three randomly assigned teams on it for each week of the NFL season (17 weeks). Each week, your three team scores are added together to determine the winners. (For example, if in week one you had Houston Texans, Kansas City Chiefs and Minnesota Vikings, the points they score will be added together for a total). If a team has a bye week, their previous week's score is used.

Help us sell tickets too! We'll 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 as well as any unsold tickets by the deadline.

For more information, to purchase tickets or to sell tickets, contact: [Jeanette Steinfeldt](#), 515-986-5520 x107

[MORE INFO](#)

## 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](mailto:susan@lookcookandeat.com).

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## Upcoming Events at SOIA

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### Upcoming Unified Golf Dates



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.

Several skill levels are offered to meet the skill level of any athlete:

- 9-hole: Pro (knows the game and skills for a full golf game)
- 6-hole: Intermediate (knows the basics of golf but still improving skills)
- 3-hole: Beginner (just learning the game of golf)

There is no charge to participate. Lunch and water will be provided along with a tournament t-shirt and awards at the end of play.

#### Upcoming Tournaments:

##### **Dubuque Unified Golf**

**Date:** July 22, 2017

**Location:** Derby Grange Golf & Recreation

##### **Spencer Unified Golf**

**Date:** August 13, 2017

**Location:** Spencer Municipal Golf Course

##### **Vinton Unified Mini Golf**

**Date:** August 19, 2017

**Location:** Vinton Skate & Activity Center

##### **Cedar Rapids Unified Golf**

**Date:** August 26, 2017

**Location:** Twin Pines Golf Course

##### **River Hills Unified Golf**

**Date:** September 8, 2017

**Location:** River Hills School

**Muscatine Unified Golf****Date:** September 13, 2017**Location:** Muscatine Municipal Golf Course**Jester Park Unified Golf****Date:** September 23, 2017**Location:** Jester Park Golf Course**Akron Unified Golf****Date:** September 30, 2017**Location:** Akron Golf Club**REGISTER TODAY**

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## State Softball Tournament August 5

The Special Olympics Iowa **State Softball Tournament** sponsored by [Sammons Financial Group](#) highlights the end of summer each August. Athletes play slow-pitch softball, which involves two teams of 10 athletes each.

Softball can also be played as a Unified Sport, joining athletes with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team.

Individual skills competition is also offered to allow athletes to train and compete in basic softball skills. The development of these key skills is necessary prior to advancing to team competition. These skills include base running, batting, fielding and throwing.

Skills and conference competitions will take place prior to the state event. [More Info](#)

### State Softball Tournament

**Date:** August 5, 2017**Area Registration Deadline:** June 16, 2017**State Registration Deadline:** July 21, 2017**Location:** Prairie Ridge Sports Complex, Ankeny

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## USTA Tennis Tournament August 26

**Save the date!**  
**Saturday, August 26**  
**Eldridge, IA**



More info to come. Call 913-967-9926 with questions.

## Discount Tickets for Iowa Vs. Wyoming Available for SOIA Athletes, Family and Friends



Friends and family of Special Olympics Iowa are invited to the Iowa vs. Wyoming football game on **Saturday, September 2**. The game will kickoff at 11 a.m. SOIA athletes and guests will save \$10 on the purchase of the football tickets with the SOIA price being \$35 per ticket for the game.

Group orders will be seated together. Tickets will be sent two weeks prior

to the game. All orders will be filled on a first come, first serve basis and sellouts are expected.

For more information, contact Bravo Sports at 319-626-8286.

**PURCHASE TICKETS TODAY**

## LETR Golf Tournament August 14



Join us for the 6th Annual **LETR Golf Tournament** benefiting Special Olympics Iowa!

### Event Details

**Date:** Monday, August 14th, 2017

**Location:** Echo Valley Country Club, Norwalk

**Cost:** \$85 (includes 18 holes of golf, golf cart, and lunch provided by Chili's)

**Registration:** [Download our flier](#)

### Schedule of Events

8 a.m. – Registration/Check-In

9:30 a.m. – Shotgun start (four person best shot)



1:45 p.m. – Lunch/Awards  
2:30 p.m. – Raffles & Prizes

For more information or to register a team, contact:  
Rachel Bosworth, 515-986-5520 x108

## Jim Jordan Memorial Golf Tournament August 16



The Kiwanis Club of Urbandale presents the Jim Jordan Memorial Golf Classic!

Jim Jordan was a long time supporter of Special Olympics Iowa, volunteering at area competitions, fundraising through Knights of Columbus and eventually serving on the Board of Directors. Jim was also a long time member of the Merle Hay-Urbandale

Kiwanis Club, which has partnered with SOIA for many years.

In 1995, Jim and fellow committee members established a golf outing to benefit SOIA. In July of 2003, while plans for the golf outing were underway, Jim tragically died in an accident while on vacation in London. In honor of his service to SOIA and Kiwanis, this event was renamed the Jim Jordan Memorial Golf Classic.

### Event Details

**Date:** Wednesday, August 16, 2017

**Location:** Otter Creek Golf Course, Ankeny

**Cost:** \$80 per person. All golfers receive 18 holes of golf, cart, lunch and opportunity for prizes. Kiwanis members receive a discount of \$10 per person.

**Registration:** [Download our brochure](#) for more details and to register!

### Schedule of Events

## Save the Date! Over the Edge September 13

Presented By Sammons Financial Group

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!

### EVENT DETAILS

**Date:** Tuesday, September 12th – VIP Day

Wednesday, September 13th – Official Over the Edge day

**Location:** Financial Center

**Cost:** \$1,000 per person

**Registration:** [Register online NOW](#)





**REGISTER TODAY!**

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## 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.soiova.org/get-involved/become-a-coach/>

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

### Fall Coaches Meetings

#### **Southeast Area Coaches Meeting**

September 6

5 p.m.

Jerry's Pizza (2105 E. Washington St., Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641)

#### **North Area Coaches Meeting**

September 17

6 p.m.

Bedell Family YMCA (1900 41st St., Spirit Lake, IA 51360)

#### **East Area Coaches Meeting**

August 23

6 p.m.

Davenport North High Schools (626 W. 53rd St., Davenport, IA 52806)

## East Central Coaches Meeting

September 13

6 p.m.

Location TBA

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## Event Calendar

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

### 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
- 20- Eunice Kennedy Shriver Day
- 22- Unified Golf- Dubuque

### August

- 5- Softball- Team and Skills State Tournament
- 13- Spencer Unified Golf Tournament
- 14- LETR Golf Tournament
- 16- Jim Jordan Memorial Golf Classic
- 19- Vinton Unified Mini-Golf
- 23- East Area Coaches Meeting
- 26- USTA Iowa All Stars Tennis Tournament
- 26- Cedar Rapids Unified Golf Tournament

### September

- 2- University of Iowa Special Olympics Game
  - 6- Southeast Area Fall Coaches Meeting
  - 8- River Hills Unified Golf Tournament
  - 13- East Central Coaches Meeting
  - 13- Over the Edge
  - 13- Muscatine Unified Golf Tournament
  - 14- North Area Fall Coaches Meeting
  - 16- State Equestrian Competition
  - 23- Jester Park Unified Golf Tournament
  - 30- Upper Iowa University Unified Sports Day
  - 30- Akron Unified Golf Tournament
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## Thank You to Our Partners!

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## Special Olympics Iowa

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

