

Special Olympics
Iowa



Summer Games to Take Place May 25-27

Special Olympics Iowa's 33rd annual Summer Games is a three-day event with more than 2,600 athletes and over 2,000 volunteers. The event consists of several sports including swimming, track and field, bocce, tennis, cycling, soccer and skills games. Athletes can participate in one sport per day.



Summer Games will take place on May 25-27 and will be held at Iowa State University in Ames.

[The Summer Games](#) will be kicked off with the Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg, which brings the symbolic Flame of Hope Torch from downtown Des Moines to Iowa State University's Hilton Coliseum for the Opening Ceremonies, presented by [Hy-Vee](#). More than 500 law enforcement officers from all around Iowa have participated in the past by running, walking and biking routes, as they head to the big event in Ames. The officers hand the torch to an athlete who lights the flame, which begins the biggest SOIA competition of the year! [Continue Reading](#)

EVENT DETAILS

Who: Special Olympics Iowa
What: 2017 State Summer Games
When: May 25-27, 2017
Where: Iowa State University, Ames

[More Information](#)

[Register to Volunteer](#)



Casey's Cups 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-stores as well as a percentage of sales from each 44 oz. fountain drink sold during the month of June.



Ankeny Play Day and Its Impact



More than 425 young children came together to participate in several sports for the Ankeny Play Day on Thursday, April 20 at Ankeny Centennial High School. This is one of many events that is sponsored by one of Special Olympics Iowa's Premier Statewide Partners, [Sammons Financial Group](#).

Play Days are events where children between the ages of two and seven with intellectual disabilities can play activities and have socialization opportunities. Since athletes cannot participate in Special Olympics events until they're eight years old, these days were created for those to participate in a more formal setting. [Continue Reading](#)

Drake Unified Sports Day to take place May 4



By Chelsey Kimmel-Kendrick

Special Olympics Iowa's 23rd annual Drake Unified Sports Day will be taking place on Thursday, May 4 at Drake University in the Knapp Center, where people with and without intellectual disabilities are joined together to compete on the same team.

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 or mental disabilities; these are called partners. The idea behind Unified Sports is to eliminate the preconceived notions and false impressions of Special Olympics athletes. [Continue Reading](#)

Iowa State Greek Community Raises Over \$377,000 for SOIA

On Saturday, April 1 the Iowa State University Greek Community and SOIA hosted the 21st annual Ames Greek Polar Plunge.

The ISU Greek Community were the sole participants in the Plunge as part of their annual Greek Week. This year the Greeks raised over \$377,132.94, a record high for the single largest one-day fundraising event for Special Olympics Iowa.



Participants jumped into an aboveground 8,500 gallon pool located on the west side of Memorial Union on the ISU campus.

Because of the wonderful effort of the students, the ISU Greek Community is now officially a Champion Statewide Partner for Special Olympics Iowa.

Thank you to everyone who donated, supported, and assisted with this event!

[More](#)



Welcome Our New Unified Champion Schools!

SOIA is proud to announce that the following four schools have recently become Unified Champion Schools!

- Ankeny Centennial High School
- Bellevue High School
- Bellevue High School
- Okoboji Middle School

The Unified Champion School model is an education and sports based strategy powered by an engaged youth community that increases athletic and leadership opportunities for students with and without intellectual disabilities, while creating communities of acceptance for all.

Any student can join the Unified Champion Schools® movement and become an agent of change in their community. If you're interested in learning more about how to adopt and embrace the Unified Champion School model in your school, please contact [Bryan Coffey](#).

Upcoming Events at SOIA

Registration is now open for the 2017 Plane Pull event happening Saturday, June 3!

Teams of up to 20 will test their strength against a UPS 757 airplane weighing more than 120,000 pounds. Teams will compete to see who can pull the airplane 12 feet in the fastest time. Teams will get to pull twice, with their fastest time counting as their final time. Both pulls will be consecutive.

Event Details:

Date: Saturday, June 3rd, 2017

Location: Endeavor Air/South Cargo Ramp, Des Moines International Airport

Time: TBA

Cost: \$1,000 per team (\$50 per person for a team of 20)

Parking: TBA



REGISTER A TEAM
TODAY!

Run With the Police 5k Fun Run to be held May 20

On Saturday, May 20 SOIA and the Des Moines Police Department will host the third annual Run with the Police event presented by Voya Financial in downtown Des Moines.

Last year's event was a big success with over \$15,000 in donations for SOIA!

- **Nowthrough May 6th:** \$25 min. per adult, \$15 min. per child (10 or younger)
- **May 7th-May 19th:** \$35 min. per adult, \$15 min. per child (10 or younger)
- **Day of:** \$45 min. per adult, \$15 min. per child (10 or younger)

***ONLINEREGISTRATION will be CLOSING WEDNESDAY, MAY 17th at noon. Late entrants



REGISTER FOR RUN
WITH THE POLICE
TODAY!

will need to register Friday at Fleet Feet or Saturday at the race site.

Register your dog as a "Junior Police K-9 member" for \$10 day of the event and receive a bandana.

Raise \$250 or more and **receive a Run with the Police coat!**

Annual Crappie Tournament May 3 and 4

Event Schedule:

Wednesday, May 3rd:

Includes: Practice day (Twelve Mile Lake) with steak fry and raffle at 6 p.m. at The Lodge (Three Mile Lake)

Thursday, May 4th: Tournament (fishing will be at Twelve Mile Lake) please read rules & registration for full details



REGISTRATION FORM

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!**

Event Calendar

May

- 4- Drake Unified Sports Day
- 8- Camp Courageous Event Day 1
- 9- Camp Courageous Event Day 2
- 10- Camp High Hopes Day
- 20- Run with the Police
- 25-27- 2017 Summer Games

June

- 3- Plane Pull
- 5- 2017 Unified Champion Schools Youth Summit
- 10- Lake City/Opportunity Challenge Day

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

Thank You to Our Partners!

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Special Olympics Iowa

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

