

Special Olympics
Iowa



2016 Summer Games

Our 2016 Summer Games are approaching fast!
They'll be held at Iowa State University May 19-21.

The Summer Games are Special Olympics Iowa's largest event of the year, with more than 2,600 athletes, 1,200 coaches and 2,000 volunteers converging on the Iowa State campus in Ames. The three-day event begins with the Torch Run Final Leg bringing the Flame of Hope from downtown Des Moines to Hilton Coliseum for the Opening Ceremony presented by Hy-Vee. [Read More](#)

[Coaches Handbook and Event Schedule](#)

[List of Events](#)

[Summer Games Details](#)

Visit Our Website

Third Annual Ankeny Play Day Sponsored by Sammons a Success!

Special Olympics Iowa (SOIA) hosted two Young Athlete Play Activity Day sessions sponsored by Sammons Financial Group on April 21. The event was held at Ankeny Centennial High School with one session running in the morning and one in the afternoon.



The Youth Athlete Play Activity Day is a program designed to provide play activities and socialization opportunities for children with intellectual disabilities between the ages of two and seven.

[Read More](#)

Lively Named Special Olympics Big 12 Conference Athlete of the Year

Special Olympics Iowa's very own athlete Kim Lively was named the 2015-16 Special Olympics Big 12 Conference Athlete of the Year in February. The recognition is awarded every year to one male and one female athlete. Athletes are chosen based on how well they represent the tenants of Special Olympics. The recipients and their families are then invited to the Phillips 66 Big 12 Men's Basketball Championship and are invited out onto the court during the title game.



Kim has been involved with SOIA for over 20 years and participates in softball, golf and bocce ball. [Read More](#)

And check out what Kim had to say about the honor [here](#).

Unified Sports Day at Drake University May 5

Special Olympics Iowa will host the 22nd annual Drake Unified Sports Day Thurs., May 5 at Drake University from 9:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Dedicated to promoting social inclusion through shared sports training and competition, Unified Sports joins people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team.

[Read More](#)

Plane Pull



Our 3rd annual Plane Pull is taking place June 4, 2016. Teams of up to 20 people will test their strength against a UPS 757 airplane that weighs more than 120,000 pounds. The teams will compete to see who can pull the airplane 12 feet in the fastest time. For the first time ever, teams will get to pull twice, with their fastest time counting as their final time. Both pulls will be consecutive. Teams can enter into one of seven categories.

Event Details:

June 4, 2016

Endeavor Air/South Cargo Ramp, Des Moines International Airport

Event starts at 10 a.m.

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

[There's still time to sign a team up!](#)

[Read More](#)

Run with the Police

This year we're teaming up with the Des Moines Police Department for our 2nd annual 5k Fun Run/Walk taking place in downtown Des Moines on May 21. Participants can register their dog the day of to be a member of the junior K-9 unit and receive a bandana!

Event Details:

May 21, 2016

100 Block of East Court Avenue next to the Des Moines Police Station

Event starts at 9 a.m.

Pre-Registration (Thurs., May 19 at noon): \$25.00

Race Day Registration: \$35.00

[Register today!](#)

[Read More](#)

Texas Roadhouse Luncheon

Texas Roadhouse has been a longtime partner of Special Olympics Iowa. On Thurs., May 12, locations across Iowa will host a FREE luncheon in support of SOIA. Simply leave a donation at your table and 100% of the proceeds will go to SOIA. Local law enforcement officials will serve meals and bus tables, allowing all tips to also benefit athletes with intellectual disabilities.

Event Details:

May 12, 2016

Texas Roadhouse restaurants across the state (Ames, Cedar Falls, Cedar Rapids, Coralville, Council Bluffs, Davenport, Dubuque, Sioux City, Urbandale)

11 a.m-2p.m.

MENU - pulled pork sandwich, side dish, fresh-baked bread with honey cinnamon butter and pop or tea

Casey's Cup Campaign



Starting the week of Summer Games and running all summer through Labor Day, Casey's General Stores across Iowa will take part in the annual Casey's Cup Campaign. Through this statewide campaign, a photo of four SOIA athletes and four Law Enforcement Torch Run officers are featured on 44 oz. drink cups. A percentage of each cup sale during the campaign is donated to SOIA.

2016 Athletes Featured On Cup:

- Ben Anderson of Ankeny
- Claire Berns of Des Moines
- Brian Rolek of West Des Moines
- Angela Collins of Muscatine

2016 Law Enforcement Torch Run Officers Featured On Cup:

- Beth Reuter, DCI
- Chad Leonard, Dallas County Sheriffs Office
- Vern Dillon, Department of Corrections
- Shannon Sampson, Cedar Rapids Police Dept

Event Details:

Week of Summer Games (May 16-21) to Labor Day, Summer 2016
Casey's General Stores across the state

[More Information](#)

Fit Focus

"March to Summer Games" is underway and will be continuing through May 15. Eleven delegations have joined the program with a total of 110 Special Olympics athletes and Unified Partners participating. Four Special Olympics athletes have walked over 100 miles in the past 6 weeks. "March to Summer Games" is a Unified Walking Club, which has the goal of developing healthy daily exercise habits. Special Olympics athletes and Unified Partners work together to compete for awards and to gain new friendships.

Award winners will be announced at the Summer Games Dance on May 20th.

The next phase of the FIT Walking Club will begin in August. "Fall into Fitness" will be a continuation of the existing FIT program and will continue to track fitness levels of our Special Olympics athletes and Unified Partners. Special Olympics athletes participating in the fall program may be eligible to receive a personal MovBand fitness tracker.

Pre- and post- assessments will be completed on Friday, May 20th at Summer Games to record fitness improvements for the current participants and for individuals interested in joining the program in August. Please feel free to contact Bruce Wilson (bwilson@soiowa.org) with any



questions on the FIT Program.

[Read More](#)

Coach's 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 [Rhonda Schwarzkopf](#).

Upcoming Deadlines

Bocce Coach/Official Certification Training Clinic held at state office May 7. [Details](#)

Coaches Sports Training Certification Clinic May 5. [Details](#)

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](#)

Calendar Highlights

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

May

- 5 - Coaches Sports Training Certification Clinic
- 5 - Unified Sports Day at Drake University
- 7 - Bocce Coach/Official Certification Clinic
- 14 - Gourmet Gala
- 16 - Torch Run Week
- 19-21 - Summer Games
- 19 - Torch Run Final Leg
- 21 - Run with the Police 5K
- 26 - NAIA Athlete Softball Clinic
- 29 - Cop on Top

June

- 4 - Plane Pull
- 4 - Area Director Meeting
- 11 - New Hope Village Challenge Day



July

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

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