

Special Olympics
Iowa



Special Olympics Iowa State Bowling to take place November 18 across the state

Although Bowling does not belong to the Olympic sports, it is among the most popular sports in Special Olympics. It is a particularly beneficial sport to people with intellectual disabilities, regardless of their age or sports abilities, since it ensures physical exercise and at the same time participation and social integration. Plus, it's great fun!



An athlete may participate in one of the following events (ramp bowling is available):

- Singles
- Doubles
- Team (four-person)
- Unified Doubles (one SOIA athlete with one Unified partner)
- Unified Team (two SOIA athletes with two Unified partners)

Event Details

State Tournament

Date: November 18, 2017

Registration Deadline: October 20, 2017

Locations:

- Westdale Bowl in Cedar Rapids (state qualifiers from the East, East Central, Northeast and Southeast areas)
- Bowlerama in Des Moines (state qualifiers from North and West Central areas)
- Merle Hay Lanes in Des Moines (state qualifiers from Central and North Central areas)
- Thunderbowl in Council Bluffs (state qualifiers from the Northwest, South Central and Southwest areas)

Please Note: Lunch will not be provided during the state bowling competition.

[More Info](#)

Special thanks to SOIA Champion Statewide Partner Hy-Vee for helping sponsor the State Bowling Tournament!



First-Ever University of Iowa Unified Flag Football Season a Success



By Bryan Coffey

Special Olympics Iowa (SOIA) and the University of Iowa (UI) Recreational Services Department have collaborated over the past several months to develop a unique and exciting partnership that promotes the Special Olympics Unified Sports component to university students and SOIA athletes.

This partnership has allowed SOIA athletes to compete alongside UI students in a six

week Intramural Unified Flag Football Season. On Monday, October 23 the season championship game was held in Kinnick Stadium, where the teams played under the bright stadium lights and were cheered on by the University of Iowa Varsity Cheer Squad.

It was evident during this game that the friendships developed throughout this season were meaningful as the fans in the stands witnessed SOIA athletes and UI Student Partners huddle together to form plays and score touchdowns.

“Our first-ever Intramural Unified Flag Football league was a great success. We received great feedback from UI students who participated as partners, as well as the Special Olympics athletes and their families,” says Tommy Schorer, Associate Director, UI Sport Programs. “Great relationships were formed, and the smiles on everyone’s faces were indicative of the great time they were all having. We are excited to be leading the way in the state of Iowa in terms of implementing Unified Sports into our Intramural Sports program, and we hope to see other schools around the state follow our lead. We look forward to expanding to even more sports in the near future.”

Casey’s General Stores and Coca-Cola raise \$98,000 in support of Special Olympics Iowa



Casey's General Stores throughout Iowa helped raise funds for Special Olympics Iowa this June with the Casey's Promotion. Stores, in partnership with Coca-Cola, sold \$1 pin-ups with proceeds being donated to Special Olympics as well as a percentage of sales from 44 oz. fountain drinks featuring Special Olympics athletes being donated to the nonprofit.

Over 14,000 athletes in Iowa will benefit from this fundraiser, which raised over \$98,000. "Casey's has continuously shown their generous support of our athletes and Unified Partners as they've helped us raise not just funds, but awareness for our organization," says Special Olympics Iowa President and CEO Rich Fellingham. "We are proud to call Casey's General Stores one of our Champion Statewide Partners."

The company's values are rooted in a sense of belonging to the communities in which it operates, which aligns with Special Olympics' vision of inclusion for all athletes. Together throughout Iowa, the Casey's Promotion raises awareness about different abilities and helps foster growth for our programs.

Special Olympics Iowa would like to give their sincerest appreciation for Casey's and Coca-Cola for their generous donation and support. [Continue Reading](#)

SOIA Tailgate for Teammates Event Raises \$50,000

On Saturday, October 21 Special Olympics Iowa held its annual Tailgate for Teammates fundraiser at the Marriott Hotel in West Des Moines. The event is a way to bring fans together to support Special Olympics Iowa athletes. Guests indulged in upscale tailgate cuisine, took part in sports-themed activities, bid for items in an auction, and



cheered for athletes competing in upcoming SOIA events.

The event raised over \$50,000 this year. SOIA, along with the Tailgate for Teammates committee, would like to thank everyone that came to the event and made donations to help support SOIA athletes and their year-round sports programs.

See more photos on our [Facebook page!](#)



Global Messenger Workshop to Take Place December 1-2



By Wendy Olinger

The [Global Messenger Workshop](#) will be December 1-2, 2017 at the state office in Grimes.

This workshop is for athletes who are interested in becoming a Global Messenger or for those Junior and Senior Global Messengers who would like to mentor new Global Messengers and build their confidence to give a speech. Each athlete will need a speech coach to help the athlete organize their thoughts and experiences about Special Olympics as well as put their personal stories and feelings on paper.

There is no cost for the workshop. Special Olympics Iowa will provide hotel accommodations for participants and coaches who require overnight accommodations, meals and a shirt.

If you know of an athlete who would like to be a Global Messenger, please contact [Wendy Olinger](#) at the state office for an application. Applications will be due **November 3, 2017**. Global Messenger candidate selections will be chosen by November 10, 2017.



Meet Team Iowa: Cedar Rapids Flag Football Team



By Stephanie Kocer

When fall brings cooler weather and changing colors it can only mean one thing; football season. The Special Olympics flag football team from Cedar Rapids has been preparing for their season for weeks, but it won't end after Special Olympics Iowa's Flag Football is over in October.

The team will continue to practice into next July to prepare for the 2018 Special

Olympics USA Games in Seattle, Washington, where they'll represent Iowa as they compete against other flag football teams for the gold.

From July 1-6, 2018 – more than 4,000 Special Olympics athletes and coaches from all 50 states and the District of Columbia will gather in Seattle to compete before tens of thousands of spectators and volunteers. The 2018 USA Games will showcase the limitless talents of people with intellectual disabilities while promoting the barrier-breaking power of sport to promote inclusion and acceptance. Among those 4,000 athletes and coaches will be 34 Iowa athletes, who will compete in athletics, flag football, powerlifting, swimming, tennis, Unified bocce and Unified bowling.

To ready themselves for USA Games, the football team is focusing on perfecting their plays and building their relationships with teammates. "I'm looking forward to good sportsmanship. If you make mistakes, you make mistakes," says athlete Paul White. He and his brother, Robbie, will be going to USA Games for the first time with the football team. They're excited to have the opportunity to play on a national scale. "We're going to cheer on other teams when we're not

Athletes Invited to Iowa Hawkeyes Volleyball Game November 5



On Sunday, November 5 Special Olympics Iowa athletes and their families and friends are invited to attend the University of Iowa Women's Volleyball game versus Purdue at a discounted price.

Use the promo code **SPECIALOLYMPICS** to receive a \$3 ticket for the game. Tickets can be purchased here:

Hawkeyesports.com/Tickets

The game begins at 2 p.m. at Carver-Hawkeye Arena.

SOIA now accepting applications for first Unified Champion Schools Scholarship



Special Olympics Iowa is offering an opportunity to graduating high school seniors who are involved in any Iowa Unified Champion Schools (UCS) program.

Teacher liaisons from Unified Champion Schools in Iowa may nominate a graduating senior to win one of two \$250 **scholarships**. If your school is not currently a Unified Champion School, please contact Bryan Coffey bcoffey@soiowa.org to learn more.

Nomination Process:

School Liaison:

- Select one graduating senior to nominate for the scholarship
- Write a 200 word (1/2 page) nomination letter explaining why you think this student would be a good candidate for this award

Student:

- Must be pursuing a higher level of education during the 2018-2019 school year.
- Write a 300-400 word (1½ pages MAX) letter detailing the following:
 - Name
 - Number of years involved with Special Olympics programs
 - Special Olympics programs and activities the student has participated in
 - Any leadership roles the student has held within the UCS club
 - Most gratifying moment of being involved

About Unified Champion Schools:

Schools across Iowa are embracing the UNIFIED concept by becoming a Special Olympics **Unified Champion School**. This program is available to all school levels ranging from elementary to college. Each school level has unique program opportunities offered that are age appropriate and conducive to the student's learning and the overall environment of the school. Elementary schools are able to host **Young Athletes** programs while middle schools, Jr. high schools and high schools focus on **Youth Leadership** and **Unified Sports**. At the college level, student clubs are encouraged to host events that community based Special Olympics athletes can participate in! If your school is not yet taking advantage of being a Unified Champion School please contact our Director of Unified Programs, Bryan Coffey; bcoffey@soiowa.org

Firefighters' Ball to Benefit Special Olympics Iowa

On Friday, November 10, Johnston-Grimes Metropolitan Fire Department Association and Johnston Professional Firefighters Local 4835 will host the annual Firefighters' Ball at Stoney Creek Inn in Johnston. Special Olympics Iowa is one of three charities chosen to receive proceeds from the event.

The charitable evening will feature hors d'oeuvres, special guests, a cash bar, dancing, silent auction, raffles and a photo booth.

The event cost is \$40 per person or \$70 per couple. Please contact Ginger at jgmfdfirefightersball@gmail.com or 515-276-5182 if interested in tickets.

Event Poster

SOIA Looks to Expand Challenge Day and Young Athlete Play Day Programs



Challenge Days: Special Olympics Iowa is looking to expand the [Challenge Day](#) program. We are looking at the Cedar Rapids, Coralville, Emmetsburg and Sioux City areas. Challenge Days are a one-day event for

athletes with significant disabilities and our aging population. Ten adaptive sports are offered during this day and lunch is provided for everyone. If you are interested in joining a Challenge Day, please contact Wendy Olinger, Director of Athlete Initiatives, at 515-986-5520 or wolinger@soiowa.org to find out more information or to get connected with a location near you.

Young Athletes Play Days:

Special Olympics Iowa is looking to expand the [Young Athletes Play Day program](#). We are looking at the Dubuque, Coralville, Marshalltown and Waterloo areas. Young Athletes Play Days are a one-day Unified event for children ages 2-7. Children with and without disabilities will come together for sports training in 10 different sport areas. Everyone will receive a free lunch and all children will receive a gold medal for participating. If you are interested in joining a Young Athletes Play Day, please contact Wendy Olinger, Director of Athlete Initiatives, at 515-986-5520 or wolinger@soiowa.org to find out more information or to get connected with a location near you.



Holiday Card Design Contest

Attention athletes! Our holiday card art contest is happening NOW! This is your chance to have your artwork featured on the holiday card sent out by the state office.

Here's what you need to do:

-Create your art! The artwork should be appropriate for a holiday card and needs to measure 5x7 (portrait or landscape).

-Send your creation to the state office by mail or email:

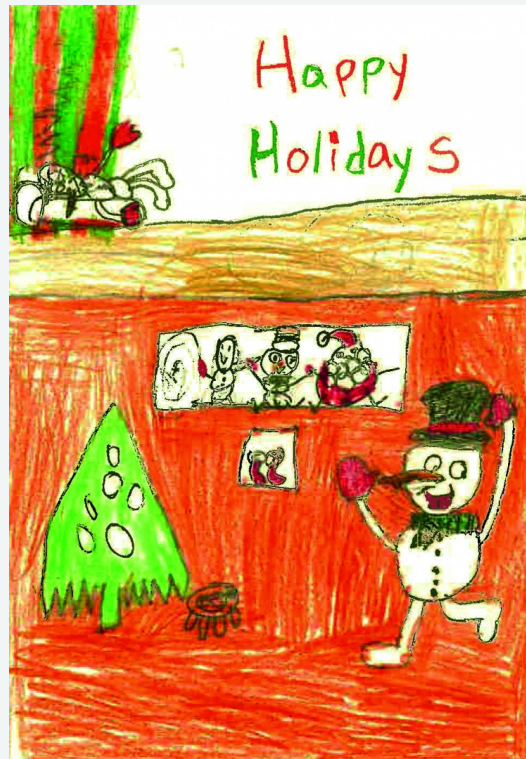
-Stephanie Kocer- skocer@soiowa.org

-Special Olympics Iowa 551 SE Dovetail Rd., PO Box 620 Grimes, IA 50111

-Deadline for artwork submissions is **Friday, November 3.**

-SOIA staff will announce the winner in November.

Good luck SOIA artists!



Upcoming Events at SOIA

Kwik Star to Sell Icons for SOIA

Starting November 10th and running through November 16th, [Kwik Star](#) stores across Iowa will sell icons in support of Special Olympics Iowa.

Customers can purchase a paper icon for just \$1 each, sign their names on the icon and display them in their local Kwik Star to show support of our athletes.

Polar Plunge Dates!



Brrrrrring on the cold! Whether you plunge solo or with coworkers, friends or family – for the ultimate bonding experience – we'll help you take “cool” up a degree or two.

Being a Plunger means cooling your body while warming hearts. The Polar Plunge® is a signature fundraiser for Special Olympics and offers a unique opportunity for individuals and organizations to raise money and support Special Olympics Iowa athletes by jumping into frigid waters. [More Info](#)

Fall Polar Plunge Dates:

Fort Dodge

November 5
Kennedy Park

Dubuque

November 18
Dubuque Water Sports Club

Join us for a Pistol Shoot Tournament benefiting Special Olympics Iowa

Special Olympics Iowa will host a Pistol Shoot Tournament fundraiser, "Shoot for the Stars" on Saturday, December 9 at CrossRoads Shooting Sports in Johnston. This is the second year of the tournament.



Event Details

WHAT: 2nd Annual Pistol Shoot Tournament, "Shoot for the Stars"

WHEN: Saturday, December 9 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

WHERE: CrossRoads Shooting Sports
(5550 Johnston Dr, Johnston, IA 50131)

This event includes:

1. **"LIVE" shoot - bullseye contest**
 2. Compete against and outscore a police officer
3. Simulator bottle shoot
 4. Fastest timed event to outscore a police officer

Pricing:

OPTION 1 = \$40

OPTION 2 = \$20

\$50 for both

Coaches Corner

Coaches' Guide Available Online!

The 2017-2018 SOIA Coaches' Guide is now available on our [website!](#)

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!](#)

Registration Forms Available Online

Registration forms for Challenge Days and Young Athlete Play Days are now available online! Go to the [Participation Forms](#) page on our website to view registration forms for all SOIA events.

Special Olympics Iowa Logo Guidelines

The Official SOIA logo is available to download on the website. Please remember that when you order clothing or other items for your team, they must have the trademarked SOIA logo on them. Logos are available to download under the "Competitions" page on the SOIA website or at this link:

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

Vendors should use these files only. Please contact [Stephanie Kocer](#), 515-986-5520, at the state office with any questions on the logo or for design approval.

Special Olympics Iowa Release and Medical Forms

Starting in October, Special Olympics began to require all athletes joining Special Olympics Iowa to complete newly updated [SOIA Release and Medical Forms](#).

These new forms will take the place of the Physical and Consent Forms that SOIA required athletes to fill out in the past. Any athlete with a current Physical and Consent Form on file will NOT need to renew with the new forms until their current physical expires.

Before athletes can begin competition in SOIA, they must submit the following forms:

- [Athlete Information Form](#) (renewed every 3 years)
- [Participant Release Form](#)
- [Medical Forms](#)
 - Health History
 - Physical Exam (renewed every 3 years)
 - Referral Form (if required)

[Continue Reading](#)

Event Calendar

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

November

- 3- Council Bluffs Young Athlete Play Day
- 5- Special Olympics Day at Hawkeye Volleyball
- 5- Fort Dodge Polar Plunge
- 9- Muscatine Young Athletes Play Day
- 14- Southwest Area Unified Sports Training Day
- 16- Northwest Area Unified Sports Training Day
- 17- Northeast Area Roller Skating
- 17- Buena Vista University Unified Sports Day
- 18- State Bowling Tournament
- 18- Dubuque Polar Plunge
- 27- NAIA National Volleyball Tournament Special Olympics Clinic

December

- 1- 2017 Global Messenger Workshop
- 2- 2017 Global Messenger Workshop
- 2- University of Iowa Unified Sports Day
- 6- Rock Bottom Brewery Wicked Elf tapping for SOIA

- 9- Pistol Shoot Fundraiser
- 10- Iowa City Dodgeball Fundraiser
- 16- Cornell College Unified Sports Day
- 16- 12 Bars of Charity

January

- 8- Winter Games
- 9- Winter Games
- 9- Southwest Area Basketball Skills
- 20- East Area Basketball Skills and Team Basketball
- 20- Northwest Area Basketball Skills
- 20- South Central Basketball Skills
- 21- Special Olympics Night with the Iowa Wolves
- 23- West Central Area Basketball Skills (Ages 8-21)
- 25- North Area Basketball Skills
- 27- West Central Area Basketball Skills (Ages 22+)
- 27- Norwalk Dodgeball Fundraiser

Thank You to Our Partners!

Champion Statewide Partners



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Special Olympics Iowa

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

