



## Starting October 1: SOIA to Roll Out New Release and Medical Forms

Starting **October 1, 2017** Special Olympics will 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](#)

## 2017 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.



## State Volleyball



The game of volleyball is attractive to all ability levels, from competitive to developmental, young and old. To play volleyball players need to acquire basic skills, learn the rules and find a fun place to practice – from the beach to the gym. Each year, the Iowa State University Kinesiology

and PE Clubs provide leadership and student volunteers, helping to make the state volleyball competition a success.

Athletes may compete in:

- Team Volleyball (6-on-6)
- Developmental Division

**Event Details**

Date: October 7, 2017

Location: Forker Building, Iowa State University in Ames

[More Info](#)

## State Flag Football

Punt, pass and kick...the Special Olympics Iowa State Flag Football Tournament gives athletes of all ability levels the chance to play America's game. It is the newest state competition, with the first tournament held in 2011.



Flag football is a 5-on-5 non-contact sport played by both male and female athletes. When played as a Unified Sport, teams are made up of athletes with and without intellectual disabilities. Teams are divided into three levels. [More Info](#)

### Event Details

Date: October 14, 2017

Location: Metro Youth Football Complex, Cedar Rapids

## State Bowling

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 (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!**



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## Team Helps Victims of Hurricane Harvey

When Hurricane Harvey hit last month Alicia Porter knew she couldn't sit on the sidelines and watch. The Special Olympics Iowa coach had an important connection to Houston; her assistant coach, Barb Hottman is originally from the city.

Hottman, a former special education teacher from Houston has a daughter living in Houston and she immediately wanted to go and see firsthand how her and all of her friends were really doing.

"Through phone calls we began to realize that these people were living on cans of soup and even K-rations. We knew that she [Hottman] could not go empty-handed," Porter said. Team Porter began reaching out to close friends and relatives, asking for donations of food and paper supplies. With an outpouring of support, a thousand dollars worth of food and supplies were donated and sent with Hottman to bring to Houston.

Porter learned that Texas residence were waiting in line for hours at grocery stores only to be turned away. Meat, milk, eggs and bread were impossible to get. “What a blessing when we were able to share our Iowa wealth” says Porter. “We were able to help 12 very needy families in Houston. They were so humbled and so appreciative. It touched our hearts.” [Continue Reading](#)



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## Dubuque Challenge Day Returns to SOIA Lineup



Special Olympics Iowa is excited to announce the Dubuque Challenge Day will return this year to Loras College in Dubuque. The Challenge Day will take place at the college’s Activity and Wellness Center on Friday, October 20, 2017. The day will kick-off with an opening ceremony at 9:30 a.m., with sports activities starting at 10:00 a.m.

Challenge Days are a one-day event designed specifically for the severe and profound population

of Iowa as well as our aging population. Because of the need to offer more activities for these individuals, it has been a goal of Special Olympics Iowa to give these athletes opportunities to compete in activities that mirror the 23 Olympic-style sports SOIA offers.

“We are excited to have the Dubuque Challenge Day return to our lineup of activities at Special Olympics Iowa,” says Director of Athlete Initiatives, Wendy Olinger. “I am excited to reform the relationship between Loras College and Hills and Dales group home.” [Continue Reading](#)

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## 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’s Ball at Stoney Creek Inn in Johnston. Proceeds from the event will be donated to Special Olympics Iowa.

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. Tickets are limited to 300 guests and are available to the public until Friday, October 20.

## Event Poster

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# Meet New SOIA Volunteer Director Elin Phipps



Special Olympics Iowa would like to introduce its new Volunteer Director, Elin Phipps!

Before taking on the full-time position of Volunteer Director, Phipps was a volunteer coordinator intern with SOIA, helping with volunteers for Summer Games. Originally from Boone, Iowa, Phipps attended Central College where she majored in Communication Studies- Mass Communication & Journalism. She also ran track and cross country for the Central Dutch.

During college Phipps worked with several nonprofits, including Young Life, and volunteered with Amanda the Panda and Kiwanis Miracle Baseball League. She has also had several jobs relating to athletics such as being a swim instructor and life guard.

Phipps is excited to start working with the athletes of SOIA. "By far the most exciting aspect I am looking forward to at Special Olympics Iowa is working with the athletes at events and getting to know them personally. I am also eager to learn more about how Special Olympics impacts persons with special needs all over the world." [Continue Reading](#)

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## 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:

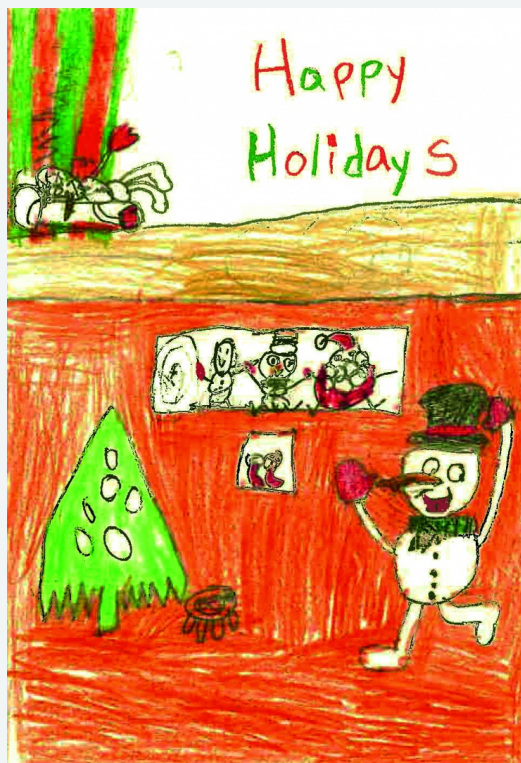
-Stephanie Kocer- [skocer@soiowa.org](mailto:skocer@soiowa.org)

-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!



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## Upcoming Events at SOIA

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## Tailgate for Teammates October 21



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 items in an auction, and cheer on Special Olympics Iowa athletes and hear their stories.

### Event Details

**Date:** October 21, 2017

**Location:** West Des Moines Marriott

[More Information](#)

[Auction Donation Form](#)

For more information on sponsoring the event or to purchase tickets, contact: [Stuart Steffy](#), Individual Giving Officer  
515-986-5520

[GET TICKETS](#)

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## World's Largest Truck Convoy October 21

Truck Convoy for Special Olympics is a national one-day celebration of the trucking industry, allied partners and law enforcement all working together to help raise money for Special Olympics Iowa.

Iowa's law enforcement officers escort the Convoy from Veterans Parkway (exit 101 off Highway 5) and travel 20 miles to the Iowa State Fairgrounds. Special Olympics Iowa athletes and families, community organizations, companies and law enforcement agencies welcome the truckers as they enter the fairgrounds for lunch and a celebration with awards to recognize participating truckers for the support they give to Special Olympics.



### Event Details

**Date:** Saturday, October 21, 2017

**Location:** Veterans Parkway to Iowa State Fairgrounds (celebration at Jalapeno Pete's) – Des Moines

**Cost:** \$100 per participant

**Registration:** [Register online here](#) OR [download our brochure](#), fill it out and mail it in.

[Download our flier \(pdf\)](#) and share it with friends!

[More Info](#)

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# Upcoming 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:

### West Des Moines

October 15  
Jordan Creek Town Center

### Davenport

October 28  
West Lake Park Beach

### Siouxland

October 28  
Brown's Lake (Salix)

### Fort Dodge

November 5  
Kennedy Park

### Dubuque

November 18  
Dubuque Water Sports Club

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## 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.soia.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.

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## **Event Calendar**

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

### **October**

- 6- East Area Bowling
- 7- State Volleyball Tournament
- 10- Southwest Area Bowling (Ages 8-21)
- 10- West Central Area Bowling (RVM and Smouse)
- 12- North Area Soccer Skills
- 12- West Central Area Bowling (Ages 8-21)
- 12- Central Area Bowling
- 13- South Central Bowling (Ages 8-29)
- 13- West Central Area Bowling (Ages 22+)
- 13- Northwest Area Bowling
- 14- State Flag Football Tournament
- 14- Northeast Area Bowling
- 14- Northwest Area Bowling
- 14- South Central Area Bowling (Ages 30+)
- 14- Southeast Area Adult Bowling (Ages 22+)
- 15- West Des Moines Polar Plunge
- 15- Northwest Area Bowling
- 16- Southeast Area Youth Bowling (Ages 8-21)
- 17- Southwest Area Bowling (Ages 22+)
- 18- North Area Bowling
- 19- North Central Area Bowling
- 20- East Central Area Youth Bowling
- 20- Dubuque Challenge Day
- 21- East Central Area Adult Bowling
- 21- Tailgate for Teammates Fundraiser
- 21- World's Largest Truck Convoy Fundraiser
- 28- South Central Area Unified Sports Training Day
- 28- Davenport Polar Plunge
- 28- Siouxland Polar Plunge

### **November**

- 3- Council Bluffs Young Athlete Play Day
- 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

### Thank You to Our Partners!

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## Special Olympics Iowa

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

