



# SPECIAL OLYMPICS MISSOURI

## St. Louis Metro Area

### NEWSLETTER

JANUARY, 2022

#### Message from Program Director Jocelyn Diehl

Happy New Year! As we return from the holiday, I'm proud to kick off a full program schedule in 2022 and thankful for the support of our Area coaches, athletes, and their families! As I begin my 11<sup>th</sup> year in this position, I'm focused on communication and operational improvements to make your experience with SOMO the best it can be, thank you for joining me on the ride this year!



#### HIGHLIGHTS

December brought us a strong finish to the bowling season as the St. Charles and St. Peters area hosted our State Competition, allowing almost every St. Louis Metro agency to advance to an event in our backyard! We thank Tropicana Lanes and Bowlero Lakeside Lanes for hosting a smooth and well-attended St. Louis Metro Area Bowling event earlier in the fall.

Last month also kicked off the basketball season with a local tournament hosted by the Francis Howell School District, using gyms at Francis Howell Central High School and Saeger Middle School. Girls and boys basketball teams from multiple high schools within the district volunteered for the event by refereeing, scorekeeping and running a Victory Village area during games – and did an amazing job supporting our athletes!

Social distancing and COVID guidelines last year prohibited a full season of either sport last year so we're so excited to return to play this year, and so pleased to see so many athletes back on the lanes and the court!

SOMO hopes all our constituents enjoyed a happy and healthy holiday season and as our offices re-open on January 3, an exciting new year on the horizon!



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*Let's do what we love, and a lot of it.*  
– Marc Jacobs

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# **Special Olympics** Missouri



## **AREA UPDATES**

As staff members in the St. Louis Metro Area Office Tina Hissong and Stacey Koeller depart for other opportunities, we wish them the best in their next professional endeavors. In the short term, the STLM Office will be a staff of one but we are searching for new, passionate staff if you can help spread the word! Please see the postings for a Development Director and a part-time Program and Development support position at <https://somo.org/about/staff/>.

At this time, the Special Olympics Missouri - Special School District Office has made the difficult decision to cancel their winter basketball season. This affects only the St. Louis County school-day programming, and their bowling competitions will continue as planned this January and February. A standard basketball season is expected to resume in 2023.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- January 16 – St. Louis Metro Area Basketball Tournament (Wright City & Warrenton)
- February 5 – Lake St. Louis Polar Plunge (Lake St. Louise)
- February 19 – Maryland Heights Polar Plunge (Creve Coeur Lake)
- February 19 – Regional Basketball Tournament (St. Charles)
- March 12 – Pattonville Local Swim Meet (Maryland Heights)
- March 19 – State Basketball Tournament (St. Charles)
- April 20 – Jefferson County Local Track Meet (Desoto)
- April 22 – St. Clair Local Track Meet (St. Clair)
- April 24 – St. Louis Metro Area Soccer Tournament (St. Louis)
- April 29 – Wright City Local Track Meet (Wright City)
- April 30 – St. Louis Metro Area Powerlifting Meet (Maryland Heights)
- May 7 – St. Louis Metro Area Spring Games (Town & Country)
- May 10 – Sullivan Unified Local Track Meet (Sullivan)
- May 20 – 22 – State Summer Games (Columbia)

## **IMPORTANT RESOURCES**

See Basketball Coaches Packet attached

## **CONTACT STAFF INFORMATION**

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