



# SPECIAL OLYMPICS UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY

## GENERATION UNIFIED

For [this month's vlog](#), we asked the Special Olympics U.S. Youth Ambassadors about the healthy habits they're planning to try this year. From marathon training to yummy no-bake recipes, we know their goals will inspire you to make the most of 2022.

## HIGHLIGHTS

The Training For Life Campus played host to their first ever unified 3v3 basketball tournament. California, Eldon, Tipton, and Belton all made the trip over to compete. After they competed, everyone of course had to have a dance party to end a great day!

We have had many great Unified events in schools over the first part of the school year. Did I miss your event? Let me know what you did so you can be included into our next highlights!

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*"Diversity is the mix. Inclusion is making the mix work."*

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## RESOURCES

Want to find more ways to engage your students with inclusion? Check out our Unified Classroom that has lessons on identity, teamwork, empowerment, leadership, appreciation, and so many more! All of the lessons have different grade levels, unified talks, with objectives and standards!

[www.generationunified.org/unified-classroom](http://www.generationunified.org/unified-classroom)

## HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED?

March 2<sup>nd</sup> is Choose to include day! To celebrate the day we want to fill the state with our Choose to include shirts! Shirts will be \$10 and shipping is covered by SOMO. [https://willpromo.com/somo\\_unified/shop/home](https://willpromo.com/somo_unified/shop/home). Get your

students together and spread the word of Inclusion!

We are back up and going at SOMO with events all around the state! With these events we are looking for volunteers! If you would like information on events you can volunteer at check out [somo.org/volunteer/](http://somo.org/volunteer/).

An inclusion revolution is a one day unified event where those with and without intellectual disabilities play together. The main goals are to break down barriers, educate students on the importance of inclusion, and provide a meaningful

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experience for all participants. These are meant to be whole school engagements and even surrounding schools with their special education departments.

Young Athlete Programs (YAP's) are a great way to work with younger schools in your district. YAP is for those 2-7 with and without intellectual disabilities where we play games to work on motor and social skills, as well as introduce them to our sports that we offer year-round. We meet once a week and this can be done either during the school day, or after school. For more information or if you are interested please feel free to reach out to me, we are excited to help you get things started!

Unified Esports is starting for the Spring Semester. This will be 3v3 unified Rocket League against some teams across the country. Rocket League is a free to play game and people can play on any platform. If you are interested please reach out to me.

## **NATIONAL BANNER PROGRAM**

A Special Olympics Unified Champion School has an inclusive school climate and exudes a sense of collaboration, engagement and respect for all members of the student body and staff. A Unified Champion School receiving national banner recognition is one that has demonstrated commitment to inclusion by meeting 10 national standards of excellence. These standards were developed by a national panel of leaders from Special Olympics and the education community.

The primary activities within these standards include: [Special Olympics Unified Sports®](#) (where students with and without disabilities train and compete as teammates), Inclusive Youth Leadership and Whole-School Engagement. Banner Unified Champion Schools should also be able to demonstrate they are self-sustainable or have a plan in place to sustain these activities into the future.

## **SCHOOL VISITS**

I have been traveling the state visiting different schools and learning about all of the great things you are doing to promote inclusion. My goal is to provide you more information on the three standards and what more you can do to be on pace to achieve national banner status. If you would like to meet please reach out to me at [mayfield@somo.org](mailto:mayfield@somo.org) or 314-477-4223 so we can start creating an inclusive environment for everyone!

## **SCHOOL SURVEY**

Please take a moment and fill out our survey so we can continue to serve you and your students creating a place where everyone feels welcome! <https://form.jotform.com/213266085825055>

## **SCHOOL SURVEY**

**St. Louis Metro Area** - contact Jocelyn Diehl ([diehl@somo.org](mailto:diehl@somo.org)) (314)-961-7755

February 19<sup>th</sup> Maryland Heights Plunge (fundraiser)

February 19<sup>th</sup> Regional Basketball (Unified/Volunteer)

March 19<sup>th</sup> State Basketball (Unified/Volunteer)

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**Central Area** – contact Tim Schuster ([schuster@somo.org](mailto:schuster@somo.org)) (573)-635-1660

February 26<sup>th</sup> Lake of the Ozarks Polar Plunge (fundraiser)

March 5<sup>th</sup> Rolla Polar Plunge (fundraiser)

March 12<sup>th</sup> Columbia Polar Plunge (fundraiser)

**Kansas City Area** - contact Alyssa Cress ([cress@ssomo.org](mailto:cress@ssomo.org)) (816)-535-9610

**North Area** – contact Alyssa Cress ([cress@somo.org](mailto:cress@somo.org)) (816)-535-9610

February 12<sup>th</sup> West Regional Basketball (unified/volunteer)

February 12<sup>th</sup> Chillicothe Polar Plunge (fundraiser)

February 26<sup>th</sup> St. Joseph Polar Plunge (fundraiser)

March 5<sup>th</sup> Kirksville Polar Plunge (fundraiser)

**Southeast Area** – contact Scott Williams ([swilliams@somo.org](mailto:swilliams@somo.org)) (573)-339-6733

**Southwest Area** – contact Jana Fornelli ([fornelli@somo.org](mailto:fornelli@somo.org)) (417)-624-5505

March 5<sup>th</sup> Springfield Polar Plunge (fundraiser)

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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