



SPECIAL OLYMPICS UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2022

UNIFIED EVENTS

We are hosting Unified events all across the state! If you are interested in hosting one or being involved there is no better time to start planning than now! Please reach out to us at evans@somo.org for any information! – Krista Evans



HIGHLIGHTS

- We started March off with the Laquey Unified Local Basketball Tournament. We had over 100 people at our Unified Basketball Tournament in Laquey!
- March 18th and 19th, Special Olympics Missouri athletes hit the hardwood for the 2022 State Basketball tournament in St. Charles. 128 teams and 60 individual skills athletes took part in the two day event, at multiple locations throughout St. Charles. Included in those totals are 14 Unified 5 on 5 teams, and 12 Unified 3 on 3 teams from around the state. The weekend began with the opening ceremony, healthy athlete's park, and dance at St. Charles West High School. This was SOMO's first multi day state event since the COVID pandemic hit. Once opening was over, athletes were treated to the sounds of local band Biscuits & Gravy, and danced the night away. Basketball competitions began bright and early Saturday morning at 8 a.m. Lots of great matchups took place throughout the day, and it was great to see the athletes competing and doing what they love.
- We have many upcoming Unified Events in April!

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

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

MASC – Summer Leadership Workshop

Missouri Association of Student Councils will be hosting an in-person Summer Leadership Workshop. If you know of an Athlete and Unified Partner from your area that may be interested, please contact Krista at evans@somo.org. Registration will open April 13th, 2022.



Special Olympics Unified Schools

U.S. Youth Ambassadors

The application for the class of 2022-2024 [U.S. Youth Ambassadors](#) is officially open! We at Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools® are looking for youth leaders with and without intellectual and/or developmental disabilities between the ages of 14-22 that can commit to this two-year role. The application will be open from March 21 – May 22. Please share the application and application materials with student leaders who may be interested!

HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED?

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/.

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 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!

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

As we approach the end of the school year, I would love to start brainstorming for next year. If you would like to meet please reach out to me at evans@somo.org.

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>

**Special
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Upcoming Events

St. Louis Metro Area - contact Jocelyn Diehl (diehl@somo.org) (314)-961-7755

April 2nd Volleyball

April 20th Jefferson county Local Track and Field

April 22nd St. Clair High School Track and Field

April 24th Area Soccer

April 29th Wright City Track and Field

April 30th Powerlifting

May 7th STML Area Spring Games

May 10th Sullivan High School Unified Local Track Meet

Central Area – contact Tim Schuster (schuster@somo.org) (573)-635-1660

April 8th Eldon Disc Golf Tournament

April 19th Track and Field Waynesville

April 23rd Central Area Track in Columbia

April 26th Hannibal Track and Field

April 28th Unified Champion Schools Track Meet at TLC

May 6th Hermann Local Track Meet

May 11th Holden Local Track Meet

Kansas City Area - contact Alyssa Cress (cress@ssomo.org) (816)-535-9610

April 2nd Aquatics meet

April 23rd Track Meet

May 14th Belton Local Track Meet

North Area – contact Alyssa Cress (cress@somo.org) (816)-535-9610

April 23rd Kirksville Track and Field

April 27th North Area Aquatics

April 30th Track Meet Savannah

**Special
Olympics**
Missouri



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May 5th Carrollton Track and Field Local Invitational

Southeast Area – contact Scott Williams (swilliams@somo.org) (573)-339-6733

Southwest Area – contact Jana Fornelli (fornelli@somo.org) (417)-624-5505

April 2nd Powerlifting

April 12th Track and Field at Carthage High School

April 27th Area Spring Games Clever High School

April 29th Area Spring Games Carl Junction High School

May 11th Inclusion Revolution at Stockton

MESSAGE FROM ME

Thank you for the many warm welcomes! I look forward to growing our Unified Champion Schools program, and furthering our partnerships! For those of you that may have missed it, here is some of my background and I look forward to getting to know you, and the schools your serve.

Krista has served as the Health and Wellness Manager for Special Olympics Missouri for the past two years. Krista Graduated from the University of Missouri with a degree in Human Development and Family Science and minor in Sociology in 2017. Prior to SOMO, she worked as a Site Facilitator at Adventure Club, a before and after school program in Columbia Public Schools. She is excited to be a part of the UCS program, and looks forward to bringing many of our programs to your school!

Please feel free to reach out to Krista at evans@somo.org with any questions!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Krista Evans – Health and UCS Manager
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