



SPECIAL OLYMPICS UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

MAY 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

April was a windy and rainy month for our outdoor competitions, but we saw a great turnout for many of our Unified events. We were able to host a Young Athlete Program at Waynesville schools, followed by an area track meet with many school based programs. Many of our areas hosted track meets for athletes ages 8 and up. Thank you to those who participated, and brought athletes from your schools. Our STL Metro area was busy this month, and they got very creative with promoting inclusion. Northwest High School and Hillsboro High School baseball teams played on April 23rd, and they made it a SOMO day! SOMO athletes from both schools were present to throw out the first pitch and sit on the team benches, and proceeds from the game were donated to SOMO. The mascots from all schools performed between innings.

Many of our schools are wrapping up the school year with Inclusion Days, which promote Whole School Engagement. If you are needing resources to make this happen at your school, please reach out!

“Diversity is the mix. Inclusion is making the mix work.”

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. SOMO will make all selections by May 7th, 2022.

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!



Special Olympics Unified Schools

UCS LIAISON SURVEY

The UCS Liaison Survey launched last month. The survey will run for 2 months and close on June 3rd. If you did not receive the email with your schools survey link, please let us know. I do have access to your schools survey links, and I can send them to you if you did not receive the original email.

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!

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

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.

SOMO 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 Olympics Unified Schools

Upcoming Events

Central: Tim Schuster schuster@somo.org (573)-635-1660	KC Metro: Meg Ward ward@somo.org	North: Jalyn Griffith griffith@somo.org	STL Metro: Jocelyn Diehl diehl@somo.org (314)-961-7755	Southwest: Jana Fornelli fornelli@somo.org (417)-624-5505	Southeast: Scott Williams swilliams@somo.org (573)-339-6733
May 6 th :Hermann Local Track Meet	May 14 th :Belton Local Track Meet	May 5 th :Carrollton Track and Field Local Invitational	May 7 th :STML Area Spring Games	May 11 th :Inclusion Revolution at Stockton	
May 6 th :Fulton Unified Day			May 10 th :Sullivan High School Unified Local Track Meet		
May 11 th :Holden Local Track Meet					
May 24 th : UCS – Unified Track Meet					

MESSAGE FROM ME

April was a unified filled month, and we appreciate all that you are doing within your schools to promote inclusion! The Special Olympics Liaison survey was sent to you all last month. If you did not see the email, please check your junk mail. I also have your school specific URL's, so I can send you the link as well. At this time only 7 schools have completed the survey, and we want to make sure your efforts are recognized and accounted for to help us keep improving our programs. We are building up our UCS team here at SOMO, and we are looking forward to a great summer and more opportunities for you all next school year.

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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