



Special Olympics
Unified Champion
Schools®

SPECIAL OLYMPICS MISSOURI UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

This past month, Ozark High School hosted a Local Bocce Competition. Ozark Tigers faced off against Stockton Tigers and Carthage Tiger in Unified Bocce. Student volunteers from Ozark High School's Color Guard made the day a huge success with opportunities for meaningful competition for many athletes. Go tigers!



Mexico Public Schools visited the Training for Life Campus for a Unified Sports day. Forty-seven students participated in Unified Sports rotations and Medfest medical exams.



Ste. Genevieve High school was named a 2022 Special Olympics National Banner Unified Champion School for demonstrating commitment to inclusion by meeting 10 standards of excellence! The school celebrated the good news during their homecoming festivities with SOMO staff from the Southeast Area. The Ste. Genevieve Dragons Unified Sports team rode together on a float in the homecoming parade. The Dragons are a phenomenal model for inclusion!





RESOURCES

Youth Innovation Grants

A Youth Innovation Project is a project that is designed, planned, and implemented by Youth Leaders to promote inclusion in their communities. Special Olympics awards project-based grants to Youth Leaders around the world twice per year in amounts of \$1,000, \$1,500, or \$2,000. Grant applications are open now and close Friday, October 21st, 2022 Youth Innovation Grants are project-based grants awarded to young leaders with and without disabilities to spread inclusion in their schools and communities. This cycle is offering up to \$2,000 per award. Applications can be found here: [Youth Innovation Projects Application \(specialolympics.org\)](#) Questions? Email Gabriella Custodio -- gcustodio@specialolympics.org



Check out Special Olympics Missouri's Unified Champion Schools [Website](#) and [Toolkit](#) for practical next steps your school can take to implement the three components of a Unified Champion School.

[High 5 for Fitness](#) is a set of video and visual support resources for youth ages 8 – 21 to help students take control of their own fitness by making healthy choices. Fit kids feel good and have lots of energy because their bodies are strong and healthy. High 5 is designed to increase knowledge and awareness of healthy behaviors, and engage students in physical activities to improve flexibility, strength, and endurance. High 5 offers an inclusive approach to teaching students with and without intellectual disabilities that can be used within a Comprehensive School Physical Activity Program. The High 5 resources are differentiated for

ages 8-11, 12-14, and 15-21. Check out the link above for free resources and an educator's guide. Contact evans@somo.org for physical copies.

HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED?

SOMO is hosting events all around the state, and we are looking for volunteers! If you would like information on events you and your students can volunteer at check out somo.org/volunteer/.

Consider hosting a Unified sports competition at your school for local, school-based Special Olympics Missouri Unified teams to join in. Contact SOMO to choose a sport, set a date, and get support with event supplies such as medals, bracketing, and banners. Popular sports for school-based Unified teams include bocce and flag football in the fall, bowling and basketball in the winter, athletics (track and field) and volleyball in the spring.

Young Athlete Program (YAP) is a great way for high school students to have a positive impact on younger students in your district. YAP is for children ages 2-7 with and without intellectual disabilities to learn motor skills, social skills and get exposure to sports. Connect with the SOMO team to receive training for executing a one day or series event with your students.

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.



Special Olympics
**Unified Champion
Schools®**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Statewide

October 7th -9th State Outdoor Games

Teams who have competed in an Area or Regional competition in bocce, golf, softball, or tennis can compete in State Outdoor Games in Jefferson City.

October 8th Medfest at Training for Life Campus 5pm-8pm. Opportunity for free athlete physicals, eye screenings, and glasses if needed. Contact Carol Griffin at griffin@somo.org with questions.

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

October 12th STL Public Schools Young Athlete Program

October 13th Franklin County Local Bowling Tournament

October 17th Jefferson County Local Bowling Tournament 10am-12:30pm

School teams invited, lunch provided, register by September 28th

October 25th STL Public Schools Local Bowling Tournament

October 27th STL Public Schools Local Bowling Tournament

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

October 8th Sports Zone and Strong Minds Binder Sports Complex, 9am-2pm Volunteer opportunity for students to host games and booths for athletes during downtime between competitions. See flyer on last page.

October 12th Odessa Local Track Meet

October 15th Strikers for SOMO Fundraiser

\$120 per team of 4 Unified partners and 1 athlete. See flyer on second to last page.

October 20th Denim and Diamonds Ladies Night Out (Adult Fundraiser, email evans@somo.org)

October 21st South Callaway Local Track Meet

October 27th Central Area UCS Flag Football Tournament

November 3rd Central Area UCS Flag Football Tournament

November 4th Central Area UCS Flag Football Tournament

November 14th Central Area Bowling Tournament Salem

Kansas City Area - contact Meg Ward (ward@somo.org) (816)-535-9610

October 11th All Abilities Fantasy Camp at Chiefs Kingdom

October 13th Fall Party 5-7pm

October 30th Picture Me Perfect Art Crawl

November 5th KC Metro Area Bowling Tournament

November 12th KC Metro Basketball Clinic

November 22nd Chicken and Pickle NKC Dine out fundraiser

North Area – contact Todd Stutzman (stutzman@somo.org) (816)-233-6232

October 15th Trivia Night St. Joseph MO

October 23rd Basketball Clinic with Missouri Western Basketball Teams

October 30th North Area Young Athletes Program

November 5th Area Bowling Tournament Chillicothe

November 12th Area Bowling Tournament St. Joseph

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



Special Olympics
**Unified Champion
Schools®**

November 19th Area Bowling Tournament Cape Girardeau

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

November 8th Area Bowling at Sunshine Lanes
November 10th Area Bowling at Sunshine Lanes
November 13th Area Bowling at Sunshine Lanes
November 17th Area Bowling at 4th Street Bowl
November 18th Area Bowling at 4th Street Bowl

*"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." –
Maya Angelou*

MESSAGE FROM ME

Your school can be a Unified Champion School this year by implementing all three components of an inclusive school: Unified Sports, Inclusive Youth Leadership, and Whole School Engagement. My goal is to provide you more information on the three components. If you would like to meet in person or via Zoom please reach out to me and we will plan a visit. Share pictures and reports from your school's inclusive events this year by tagging Special Olympics Missouri on social media and sending me an email. I would love to meet you and support your next steps towards being a more inclusive school!

CONTACT INFORMATION



Emma Thomas

Unified Champion Schools Manager

573-469-7832

thomas@somo.org

305 Special Olympics Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65101



Special Olympics
Unified Champion
Schools®

Try it, you'll strike it!

STRIKERS FOR SOMO



9-Pin No-tap Bowling Tournament

Meet our Special Olympics Missouri Athletes

All proceeds to benefit Special Olympics Missouri

OCT. 15, 2022 / 9 a.m. - Noon
STRIKERS BOWLING LANES
2017 CHRISTY DRIVE, JEFFERSON CITY

Raffle! 50/50! Silent Auction!

Use the QR Code to register by Oct. 1, 2022!



More info:
www.somo.org
Questions?
Griffin@somo.org
573.619.9973

Participate in our team costume contest! What will your team be wearing to support SOMO!?





Special Olympics
**Unified Champion
Schools®**



Special Olympics
**Unified Champion
Schools®**

Student Group Volunteer Opportunity



Sports Zone at State Outdoor Games

Sports Zone is an opportunity for athletes to participate in fitness education, health screenings and take breaks between competitions at the State Outdoor Games. Your student group could help by running a booth to engage with athletes, give encouragement and provide a fun experience. Students may run an existing booth or design their own activity.

Ideas: Inclusion Pledge, SMART Goals, temporary tattoos, carnival games, karaoke and water or snack distribution.

Saturday, October 8th
9am-2:30pm

Binder Sports Complex
Ball Fields
400 Binder Lake Rd
Jefferson City, MO 65109

Contact Emma Thomas
at SOMO to sign up.



thomas@somo.org



573-469-7832



www.somo.org