

July Newsletter



SOMO and MIZZOU athletes teamed up to play Unified Kickball! Unified sports bring together people with and without Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) to compete on the same team. These opportunities bring out skills, courage and joy in all students and they don't have to be complicated to plan and execute. Your students with and without IDD can plan and lead a Unified Sports activity this year!

Need ideas? [Review this resource](#) or contact us at ucs@sono.org to start planning.

Highlights from Missouri Schools



At the beginning of June athletes from across the state traveled to Columbia, MO for Special Olympics Missouri's State Summer Games competitions in swimming, powerlifting, volleyball, and track and field.



Three SOMO athletes gained valuable leadership skills at Missouri Association of Student Councils Summer Leadership Workshop. These students spoke to student leaders across the state about the importance of inclusion. [Read more.](#)



Charlie Phillips, a SOMO athlete from Savannah, MO, competed in powerlifting last week at World Games in Berlin Germany. [Read more.](#)



Athletes from across the state attended Gary Brimer Sports Camp at SOMO's Training for Life Campus. Your students are invited to come attend or volunteer next year. [Read more.](#)



Missouri FCA members held leadership training events at our Training for Life Campus and took the afternoon to join Gary Brimer Sports Camp for ice cream and Unified Sports.



Stephens College and State Fair Community College students provided FREE health screenings to our Gary Brimer Sports Campers!



North Area Outstanding Youth Volunteer of the Year- Karli O'Donnell

belongs to the organization FCCLA. She decided that she was going to raise money for Special Olympics Missouri due to her sister Katie being an athlete. Karli set up events such a dance, bake sales, applied for Wal-Mart matching grants, during all of this she recruited volunteers to help her with each project. Karli set a goal of \$1,000 but exceeded her goal by \$5,000.



Odessa High School hosted a banquet at the end of the school year to celebrate Unified Sports athlete achievements. This is a great way for a school to officially recognize Unified Sports in a similar style as other athletics/activities!

Resources for your School

Partnership for Inclusion 2023-24. Schools in the unified movement are invited to submit the [2023-24 Partnership for Inclusion](#) online form, which will register your campus as an official Missouri Unified Champion School in '23-'24. Please communicate with your student leaders and educators when planning for each of the three UCS components (Inclusive Youth Leadership, Whole School Engagement and Unified Sports & Activities).

Play Vs. Offers [Free Unified Fall Esports League](#) for Third Year

- Registration deadline: 9/22/23
- Preseason: Weeks of 9/11/23 & 9/18/23
- Regular Season: 9/25/23 - 11/17/23
- Playoffs: 11/27/23 - 12/8/23
- Fall Championships: Week of 12/11/23

Check out the link above or contact ucs@somo.org to discuss this free opportunity for students aged 13+ with and without IDD to compete at Mario Kart 8 Deluxe or Rocket League.






COME VISIT THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS MISSOURI TRAINING FOR LIFE CAMPUS



FREE field trip opportunity inclusive of students of all abilities!





VISIT FOR A DAY, TAKE BACK IDEAS TO IMPACT YOUR SCHOOL YEAR ROUND!

Come join us for a free field trip to experience each component of the Unified Champion Schools strategy: Unified Sports, Inclusive Youth Leadership and Whole School Engagement.

Contact us to set a date, time and activity plan that works well for your students of all ages. We welcome large groups of students with and without Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Please note transportation assistance may be available.

CONTACT US

 ucs@somo.org
 somo.org/ucs
 305 Special Olympics Drive
Jefferson City, MO 65101
  573-635-1660

Click Here for Upcoming Events in Your Area

- SOMO will host a standalone State Pickleball Championship on July 15th in Jefferson City. Reach out to Statewide Competition Director Luke Lamb (lamb@somo.org) for more info.
- Contact your Area Program Director now to find out about current summer sports seasons for softball, golf, tennis, bocce and flag football. These sports will have Area competitions beginning in July and culminate in State Outdoor Games in Jefferson City on October 6th-8th.
- Plan to invite a Unified pair of leaders from your school to join our virtual statewide Youth Activation Committee. Applications will go out this fall and selected students will participate in monthly virtual meetings to learn leadership skills, connect with student leaders across the state, and collaborate on a project to make Missouri schools more inclusive.
- The 2023 Drive it Home Raffle is off and running! We're raffling off a 2023 Ford Explorer XLT 4WD SUV Turbocharged and giving away early-bird cash prizes! Plus, we're once again holding a 50/50 Raffle!

Visit Our Website to Learn How to
Become a Unified Champion School

Visit Generation Unified for Free
Lessons and Videos



Special Olympics
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Questions? Want to share inclusive ideas from your school? Contact us at ucs@somo.org.