

MEDIA ALERT



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SOMO seeks volunteers for West Regionals in St. Joseph

ST. JOSEPH – Special Olympics Missouri is seeking volunteers for our West Regional Basketball Tournament throughout the St. Joseph area on Saturday, Feb. 3, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. We will have about 850 athletes competing in this year’s tournament.

We’ll be hosting our competition at the following locations:

- Spring Garden Middle School
- Benton High School
- Bode Middle School
- Lafayette High School
- The St. Joseph Rec Center

Volunteer duties might include keeping score, running the scoreboard, assisting teams to the correct court, cheering, helping with medals, etc. [You can sign up to volunteer here!](#)

“We need volunteers to make this event possible for our athletes,” said Craig Hall, SOMO’s Director of Competition and Outreach. “We appreciate any and all support you are able to provide!”

We will also have free health screenings for our athletes at the St. Joseph Rec Center through our Healthy Athletes program. We’ll have volunteer clinicians on hand to hold Special Smiles from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Special Smiles is a part of our Healthy Athletes program. Dentists and hygienists will provide one-on-one instruction on proper teeth-brushing techniques, an oral health screening using tongue blades and flashlights (no treatment is given, and information on the value of nutrition in maintaining good oral health. All athletes that go through Special Smiles will receive a free t-shirt.

“This is a great opportunity for all those attending Regionals to get the chance to get a free health screening,” Health Partnership Director Carol Griffin said. “We hope to serve lots of athletes!”

Media is asked to RSVP to Craig Hall at hall@somo.org. We appreciate any and all coverage you are able to provide.

Thank you so much to our statewide sponsors: Knights of Columbus, Missouri Association of Student Councils, Diamond Pet Foods, Law Enforcement Torch Run, University of Missouri, University of Missouri System, MU Health Care and Rusty Drawing Automotive.

Special Olympics Missouri

Special Olympics Missouri (SOMO) is a year-round program of sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Thousands of athletes participate in 13 Olympic-type sports throughout the state. SOMO provides people with intellectual disabilities continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, and experience joy as they participate in the sharing of gifts and friendship with their fellow athletes, their family and friends, and communities across Missouri.

SOMO is proud of our financial health, returning 82% of every dollar back to program services. We are privileged to be recognized with these honors: Better Business Bureau A+ Charity Accreditation, Guidestar Gold Level and Charity Navigator 4-star rating. Special Olympics was also recently named Morning Consult's No. 4 most trusted nonprofit.

Thank you for trusting us with your donations, volunteer time and your goodwill.

Visit Special Olympics Missouri at www.somo.org. Engage with us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Tik-Tok](#), [Threads](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#).

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