

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 8, 2024

CONTACT: Kellen Wolters, Plunge Coordinator

(314) 961-7755

wolters@somo.org

21st Annual Lake Saint Louis Polar Plunge raises \$126,526 for Special Olympics Missouri

LAKE SAINT LOUIS - The 21st Annual Lake Saint Louis Polar Plunge on Feb. 3 was a splashing success, raising \$126,526 to date. A total of 347 brave men and women from around the area donned Hawaiian-themed costumes and swimwear to take a chilly dip into Lake St. Louise. Their *Reason for Freezin'* was the athletes of Special Olympics Missouri (SOMO).

Online fundraising is still ongoing. Organizers of the Plunge are excited they surpassed the goal of \$90,000 thanks to the incredible support of the community. Donations can still be made on our [online fundraising page](#).

"We had a beautiful day for the Lake Saint Louis Polar Plunge," Plunge Coordinator Kellen Wolters said. "I am so grateful for the amazing support of our law enforcement, school and community teams all coming together for our SOMO athletes!"

Top individual fundraisers:

- Dave Hurst – UAW/GM - \$3,071
- Nick Barbier – Wentzville PD - \$2,738.91
- Joe Gardner – St. Peters PD - \$2,365

Top team fundraisers:

- UAW/GM
- Wentzville Police Department
- JHS Student Council

Competition for the Golden Plunger was steep this year. Participants were encouraged to come in costume and compete for the chance to take home the "Golden Plunger."

- Best Dressed Community Team – Sara's Stars
- Best Dressed Law Enforcement Team – St. Louis Metro Police Department
- Best Dressed School Team – Timberland High School

SOMO was lucky to have a Plunge ambassador helping with this event. Our Plunge Ambassador for this year's Plunge was Glenn Plank. He is a SOMO athlete, and he worked for months to help spread awareness of the Plunge!

This year's event was held in conjunction with Lake St. Louis, Wentzville, O'Fallon and St. Charles County Police Departments.

Thank you so much to our sponsors!

- Our Polar Level sponsors are Lake St. Louis Community Association and Toyota

- Our Tundra Level sponsors are Premiere Rentals and Purpose Wrecker

For more information about the Polar Plunge, visit www.somo.org/plunge.

Media is welcome to download and use any pictures from [our Flickr page here!](#)

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](#).

###