

PRESS RELEASE



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Odessa High School to celebrate National Banner recognition during Captain X Games

ODESSA – Odessa High School will celebrate its recent recognition as a [National Banner Unified Champion School](#) at its Captain X Games on Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024.

The event will begin at 11:11 a.m. in the Odessa High School Wood Gym

"We are thrilled to celebrate Odessa High School for their commitment to inclusion!" Unified Champion Schools Manager Emma Thomas said. "They are a standout Unified Champion School because they consistently provide opportunities for their students with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities to build relationships together!"

In Sept. 2023, Special Olympics Missouri (SOMO) recognized Odessa High School as one of three Missouri schools to receive this honor. The others were Webb City Junior High and Poplar Bluff High School.

To become a National Banner Unified Champion School, Webb City Junior High had to meet [10 standards of excellence](#) focusing on Unified Sports, inclusive youth leadership and whole-school engagement.

Media is asked to please RSVP to Emma Thomas at thomas@somo.org.

Special Olympics Missouri

Special Olympics Missouri 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. Special Olympics 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.

Special Olympics Missouri 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, Charity Navigator 4-star rating and Guidestar Gold Level. 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.

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