

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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9th Annual Springfield Polar Plunge raises \$62,926 for Special Olympics Missouri

SPRINGFIELD - The 9th Annual Springfield Polar Plunge on Saturday, March 2 at Ski Shack was a splashing success, raising \$62,926.48 to date. A total 150 brave men and women from around the area donned Hawaiian-themed costumes and swimwear to take a chilly dip into Ski Shack Cable Park. Their *Reason for Freezin'* was the athletes of Special Olympics Missouri (SOMO).

Online fundraising is still ongoing. Organizers of the Plunge still hope to raise an additional \$2,100 to reach the goal of \$65,000. Donations can be made on our [online fundraising page!](#)

"The Plunge was such a success, and we had a blast," Plunge Coordinator Haley Blevins said. "It was awesome to see so many new faces from the community join us as well as our supporters that continue to come back year after year. Seeing our community support our local athletes is always exciting!"

Top individual fundraisers:

- Monique Carriger
- Logan Flemming
- Kevin Smith

Top team fundraisers:

- Hot Wings
- Springfield Police Department
- Branson Schools

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."

- 1st Place – Eliza Sitzes
- 2nd Place – Olga Cordero

SOMO was lucky to have three Plunge Ambassadors helping with this event. Our Plunge Ambassadors for this year's Plunge were Jody Davis, Jeremy Tucker and Justin Tucker. They are all SOMO athletes, and they worked for months to help spread awareness of the Plunge! We also had an additional 10 athletes in attendance that helped throughout the day of the event.

This year's event was held in conjunction with the Springfield Police Department and Missouri State Highway Patrol Troop D.

Thank you so much to our sponsors!

- Our Polar Level sponsors are Pinegar Honda, Ski Shack, iHeart Media and KY3.
- Our Tundra Level sponsors are Gold Mountain Communications and SRC Holdings Corp.

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](#).

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