

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 6, 2025

CONTACT: Melody Prawitz, Development Director
816-233-6232
prawitz@somo.org

18th Annual Polar Plunge raises 7,700 for Special Olympics Missouri

CHILLICOTHE – The 18th Annual Polar Plunge on February 1st at Simpson Park was a splashing success, raising \$7,700 to date. A total 22 brave men, women from around the area donned costumes and swimwear to take a chilly dip into freezin’ water. 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 \$2,300 to reach the goal of \$10,000. Donations can be made at PlungeMO.org and choose Chillicothe plunge.

“It was a great day for a plunge not to cold and want to thank everyone for supporting Special Olympics.”

Top individual fundraisers:

- 1st Place Fundraiser- Decker Rardon

Top team fundraisers:

- 1st Place Fundraiser -Chillicothe Correctional Center
-

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.”

- Group 1st Place – Chillicothe High School

SOMO was lucky to have Charlie Phillips, Plunge Ambassador helped with this event. 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 Chillicothe Correctional Center.

For more information about the Polar Plunge, visit PlungeMO.org.

Media is welcome to download and use any pictures from our Flickr page (Zach/Kayla link 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 16 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 83% 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. 5 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 [X](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Tik-Tok](#), [Threads](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#).

###