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5900 Monona Drive, Suite 301 · Madison, WI 53716 · (800) 552-1324 · FAX (608) 222-3578 · SpecialOlympicsWisconsin.org

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Medical Expiration Online for Families

Athletes and their guardians now have the ability to look up medical expiration dates by simply visiting www.specialolympicswisconsin.org/family_athlete_lookup.aspx. Type in the athlete's last name and date of birth to look up the medical expiration date that is on file at the State office.

Please communicate this to your families along with clarification that athlete medicals must be current through the final day of the State competition if athletes want to advance to every level of competition.

We Are Now Able to E-mail Blank Medical and Release Forms

This is a cost saving and quick way to send blank forms when needed.

Agency Managers, parents and guardians should e-mail Samantha VeDepo with their requests: svedepo@specialolympicswisconsin.org

R-Word News

So far 50 R-Word events have taken place. Within those events, there were at least 40 schools that directly participated or were reached by one of our athletes. Also, 37 of those events had a banner that was available to sign. We currently have 27 banners returned, and the rest are still traveling. As of today we have collected a whopping 8,125 signatures!

Will Enterprises will take orders for the red r-word shirts up until April 30. A HUGE thank you to everyone who ordered shirts or participated in r-word events! Make sure to report all events to Rebecca Masephol at rmasephol@specialolympicswisconsin.org or 800-704-1614 so SOWI can get credit on our Project UNIFY grant report!

SOWI Looking for an Athlete to be Truck Convoy Marshal!

The 6th Annual World's Largest Truck Convoy® for Special Olympics Wisconsin is seeking an athlete to serve as the 2010 "Athlete Marshal." This prestigious honor requires the athlete to have their own transportation to and from the Convoy on Saturday, Sept. 18. The day would begin at registration from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the Pioneer Travel Plaza in Richfield, WI. They would then have the opportunity to ride in a truck (a waiver must be signed to ride in a truck) in the Convoy heading up to Oshkosh, where the athlete will then have lunch, followed by assisting with presenting awards to the truckers until approximately 1:30 pm. The athlete will be in massive amounts of photographs, so they will receive a piece of clothing as the official Marshal of the event and a smile is required! If you are interested in nominating an athlete, contact Kelly Kloopping at kkloopping@specialolympicswisconsin.org or call 800/552-1324, ext. 217.



Indoor Sports Tournament

You spoke, we listened!

SOWI recently reduced the number of people allowed on a basketball roster from 12 to 10 in order to comply with SOI rules. Since that time, there has been much feedback from Agencies in regard to the difficulty of fielding a full team from District to Regional to State competition. As a result, SOWI will be making the change to return to 12-person rosters for basketball beginning in the 2010-2011 Program year.

Summer Games Preview

As those of you who have been involved with SOWI for several years know, SOWI was forced to reduce the quota for summer games by 10% in 2005 due to budgetary issues. Those reductions happened primarily in athletics and aquatics. We are happy to announce that we are now at a point financially where we are able to re-add the quota that was reduced.

At the time of the reduction, SOWI increased the number of events in which an athlete could participate for athletics. The theory was that since less athletes were able to attend, that we would be able to give them more opportunity to participate. Unfortunately as we re-add the quota, we are unable to manage the athletes in as many events, forcing us to reduce the number of events in which an individual athlete may participate (affects only athletes participating in athletics). The end result is that more athletes will have the chance to attend the State Summer Games, but will be able to participate in one less event. For further clarification, please contact your Area office.



Turbo Jav clarification: You may have noticed on the turbo jav website that SOI changed the standard for mini javelin in their rules after the 2009-2010 Competition Guide was completed; they require a 400 gram turbo jav rather than a 500 gram turbo jav for the older age groups. For the 2010 season, SOWI will continue to use the 500 gram Turbo Jav for the older age groups as is printed in the current Competition Guide. We felt that it would be unfair and difficult to communicate a rule change of this nature in the middle of a season. After the season, we will discuss whether to make a change to the rules for next year.





Top Ten



1. It was a great **Plunge season!** We had 9,500 Plungers raising over \$1.7 Million, which is about \$200,000 more than last year! Thanks to all the Agencies who participated!
2. **Online pledging** is an important reason why the Polar Plunge® is so successful. Although Plunge donors provide their address online for a credit card pledge, SOWI does not use this information for other donor asks unless the donor is already connected to the organization in another way.
3. **Team Wisconsin**, who is heading to the National Games this July, raised \$15,000 through the Polar Plunge® and \$18,000 selling t-shirts. Due to a friendly challenge between the soccer and basketball teams on who could raise more money, the basketball team will be carrying the soccer team's luggage for the spring training camp!
4. **SOWI 1st quarter training stats:** SOWI has 1,164 certified coaches and 2,315 sports certifications meaning that many of our coaches have multiple certifications. So far this year, there have been 16 training schools offered with 147 coaches attending.
5. Every three years, **Class A volunteers** need to retake their Protective Behaviors training online prior to their three year re-screen. This past month, 135 emails were sent to individuals who needed to re-take the Protective Behaviors and 57% responded.
6. **Young Athletes™** has been taken by the spring wind in the Fox Cities region! Oshkosh is on board to run this spring, summer and next school year, and Appleton has stepped up to the plate by beginning plans for a second session to start this month! The Young Athletes Program is gaining momentum and continuously looking to expand. If you, or someone you know, is interested in bringing Young Athletes to your area, contact Krysten Kirsch at kkirsch@specialolympicswisconsin.org or visit the SOWI website for more info and photos!
7. Coming this fall...to a tall building near you...**Special Olympics Wisconsin's newest fundraiser...OVER THE EDGE!** If you thought the Polar Plunge® was wacky, wait until you see this! Keep your eye on SpecialOlympicsWisconsin.org for details on and locations for the Sept. 1 Madison and Sept. 8 Milwaukee event. Get ready to mark another item off your 'bucket list'!
8. Investigator Mark Mauthe, City of Menasha Police Department, has been selected to represent Wisconsin in the **2010 Law Enforcement Torch Run® Final Leg** for the USA National Games this July in Nebraska. Mark has been involved with Special Olympics since 1988. Congrats Mark!
9. **SOWI Athlete Cindy Bentley** is the topic for a book that will be published in July, 2010 by the Wisconsin Historical Society Press, called *Cindy Bentley: Spirit of a Champion*. In this book (written for grades 4-8), students will learn what inspired Cindy and how she inspires others! They'll follow Cindy's journey from being a child who was expected to live in a state institution her entire life to her unexpected travels as an independent adult which led her to have dinner at the White House twice with two different American presidents and give a speech in front of 15,000 people. Watch for details on how to purchase your copy!
10. Despite a difficult economic year, **SOWI finished 'in the black' for 2009**. The audit will take place in April with a financial report available in June. As always, we can all be proud of being part of such a fiscally responsible and successful organization.

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