



For Immediate Release

Contact Alexandra McMillin: 312-502-7954 | amcmillin@soill.org

Special Olympics Illinois Athletes to Compete in 2018 Outdoor Sports Festival

DECATUR, Ill. – 2018 Outdoor Sports Festival will take place at Rotary Park and Hickory Point Golf Course in Decatur, IL on September 8 and 9. This event is one of 9 state sports competitions. It is the final competition for those participating in Softball and Golf. Young Athletes will have the opportunity to participate in both softball skills and golf skills. Over 650 athletes and 20 Unified partners compete over this weekend and bring the joy of sport to Decatur.

Special Olympics Illinois needs your help as a volunteer for our Outdoor Sports Festival in Decatur. Volunteers are still needed at both the golf and softball venues on Saturday and Sunday and you can register online at www.soill.org.

Softball teams will come together from throughout the state for their final games at Outdoor Sports Festival. Individual Skills Competition will also be offered where individuals will demonstrate their skills in base running, throwing, fielding and hitting. Athletes may compete in Individual skills competition or team competition.

Additionally, this event serves as the final tournament for golfers as they demonstrate the skills they have developed. Athletes may compete in Individual Skills Competition, 3-Hole Competition, 6-Hole Competition or 9-Hole Competition, or in Unified Golf – where pairs with and without intellectual disabilities compete together. Individual Skills athletes will be showing off their Golf skills in short & long putt, chip shot, pitch shot and iron & wood shot.

Tentative Competition Times:

Softball

- Saturday, 10am – 5:30pm
- Sunday, 8am – 3:30pm

Golf

- Saturday, 9am-4pm
- Sunday, 9am-12pm

Young Athletes aged 6 and 7 will be invited to participate and showcase their talent in Decatur. Young Athletes will have the opportunity to participate in Softball Individual Skills and for the first time Golf Individual Skills.

The Opening Ceremony is always one of the highlights of any Special Olympics Games and the tradition holds steady at the Outdoor Sports Festival. The Opening Ceremony will be held in Central Park in downtown Decatur. There will be entertainment followed by the grand entrance of the Torch Run and lighting of the cauldron.

The Illinois Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, Caseys General Store, Knights of Columbus, Law Enforcement Torch Run and United Airlines are Official Partners of Special Olympics Illinois.

Special Olympics Illinois

605 E. Willow St., Normal, IL 61761

Tel 309-888-2551 Fax 309-888-2570

www.soill.org

Created by the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation for the benefit of persons with intellectual disabilities



Special Olympics Illinois is a not-for-profit organization offering year-round training and competition in 18 sports for more than 23,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities and nearly 20,000 Young Athletes ages 2-7 with and without intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics transforms the lives of people with intellectual disabilities, allowing them to realize their full potential in sports and in life. Special Olympics programs enhance physical fitness, motor skills, self-confidence, social skills and encourage family and community support. If you are interested in learning more about Special Olympics Illinois, volunteering or providing financial support to help make Special Olympics programs possible, contact your local Special Olympics agency, call 800-394-0562 or visit our website at www.soill.org. Follow Special Olympics Illinois on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

*In case of inclement weather, schedule changes or cancellations check the website here for updates. You can also call 309-888-2000 Ext. 245**

###