



For Immediate Release

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

60,000 Rubber Ducks Will Splash into the Chicago River Aug. 9 for Special Olympics Illinois Ducks Still Available for Adoption – Wabash Bridge Serves as New Drop Site for #ChiDuckyDerby

CHICAGO, August 6, 2018 – 60,000 rubber ducks will drop off the Wabash Bridge into the Chicago River at 1 p.m. August 9, 2018! The 13th Annual Chicago Ducky Derby to benefit Special Olympics Illinois enthralls people of all ages who watch the ducks “race” to the finish line. Join the conversation using #ChiDuckyDerby on social media.

Ducks are still available for adoption for \$5 online at www.chicagoduckrace.com and in person on race day, August 9, beginning at 7 a.m. at 400 N. Michigan Avenue. Sales close prior to Splashdown at 12:30 p.m. The Family Festival begins at 10 a.m. in front of the Wrigley Building and features roaming entertainment, live music, prizes, face painting and the Ducky Derby mascot Splash.

Many Special Olympics Illinois athletes will be on hand to greet visitors. Grand prize is a brand new 2018 Chevy Equinox courtesy of the Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana Chevy Dealers.

Special Olympics Illinois athlete and Duck Ambassador Jack Klawitter will be at the finish line to hold up the winning duck.

Other prizes include a \$2,500 cash prize, an all-inclusive Apple Vacation and Chicagoland Speedway tickets.

Last year’s event saw more than 58,000 ducks adopted and raised more than \$400,000 for Special Olympics Illinois.

Chicago Cubs players Willson Contreras and Kyle Hendricks served as the celebrity ambassadors for the Chicago Ducky Derby.

The success of the annual Ducky Derby depends on two hundred sales teams – both corporate teams and independent groups – who devote the summer to selling duck adoptions and spreading the word about the benefits of Special Olympics.

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 getting involved with Special Olympics Illinois, visit www.soill.org. Follow Special Olympics Illinois on Facebook and Instagram: @specialolympicsillinois, and Twitter: @SO_Illinois.

On race day, all media should contact Alexandra McMillin via 312-502-7954 or amcmillin@soill.org.

The Chicago Ducky Derby is presented by Jewel Osco. Thank you to Chicagoland and Northwestern Indiana Chevy Dealers, TD Ameritrade, The Sugar Factory Restaurant, Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, United Airlines, Apple Vacations, Dunkin’ Donuts, Clear Channel Outdoor and Hollister. This year’s media sponsors are Fox 32 Chicago, The Chicago Sun-Times and iHeart Media.

###

Special Olympics Illinois State Headquarters

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 Northern Office

500 Waters Edge, Ste. 100, Lombard, IL 60148
Tel 630-942-5610 Fax 630-942-5613