



**Special Olympics**  
Illinois



**For Immediate Release:**

Media Contact: Alexandra McMillin: 312-502-7954 | [amcmillin@soill.org](mailto:amcmillin@soill.org)

Day of Contact: Katie Risley: 309-533-3725 | [krisley@soill.org](mailto:krisley@soill.org)

**Sears Centre Truck Convoy to Benefit Local Special Olympics Athletes on August 25**

**Hoffman Estates, Ill., Aug. 3, 2018** – Law Enforcement and truckers throughout the United States and Canada will join forces to hold the Sears Centre Truck Convoy for Special Olympics Illinois hosted by the Hoffman Estates and Buffalo Grove Police Departments. The international fundraising and awareness event is a unique partnership between law enforcement and truckers to raise funds for Special Olympics so the athletes can continue to train in year-round sports activities. Officers involved in the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics have made the Truck Convoy one of their annual signature events.

Special Olympics Illinois is proud to host the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Sears Centre Truck Convoy at the Sears Centre (5333 Prairie Stone Pkwy in Hoffman Estates) on Saturday, Aug. 25. Registration will kick off at 8 a.m. and the Truck Convoy will start at 10 a.m. Law enforcement officers will escort the Convoy approximately 30 miles along Route 59/90 West to Interstate 90 and Route 47 before returning to the starting location. In addition, the event features #SquadHaul; flatbeds and tow trucks are invited to partner with a local police department and haul a marked squad vehicle. Special Olympics athletes and families, the community, companies, and law enforcement agencies will welcome the truckers as they return for lunch and a celebration, complete with awards and raffles. Special Olympics Illinois athlete and Global Messenger Claire Grothe will also give a speech to the group.

The Sears Centre Truck Convoy is the first of three events held in Illinois this year. On Saturday, September 22, Troy Police Department will host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Southern Truck Convoy at CIT Trucks in Troy. October 13 will mark year 14 for the Tinley Park Truck Convoy at the Hollywood Casino Amphitheatre hosted by Tinley Park Police Department.

“Special Olympics has a way of bringing everyone together, setting aside differences and building communities of acceptance,” said Katie Risley, Asst. Director-Torch Run. “The fact that Special Olympics can bring together law enforcement officers and truckers is a testament to how the athletes of Special Olympics are a true inspiration.”

In 2017, a total of 230 trucks participated and raised \$70,000 for the athletes of Special Olympics Illinois. Since 2005, the Illinois Convoy has raised more than \$575,000 with a total of 750 trucks.

Trucking companies and truckers who want to participate in this year’s event can visit <https://www.soill.org/truck-convoy/> to register. The minimum donation to participate in the Special Olympics Truck Convoy is \$100 per truck. Trucking companies bid additional sponsorship funds to win the coveted spot of leading the convoy.

Thank you to presenting sponsor Idealease for supporting the Sears Centre Truck Convoy.

**Special Olympics Illinois**

605 E. Willow St., Normal, IL 61761

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

[www.soill.org](http://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](http://www.soill.org). Follow Special Olympics Illinois on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

**The Law Enforcement Torch Run®** is the single largest year-round fundraising vehicle benefiting Special Olympics Illinois. The annual intrastate relay and its various fundraising projects have two goals: to raise money and to gain awareness for the athletes who participate in Special Olympics Illinois. The Law Enforcement Torch Run® has raised more than \$47 million over 32 years while increasing awareness of Special Olympics Illinois athletes and their accomplishments.

###