



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Special Olympics Illinois Athletes to Compete in Fall Games**

**Rockford, Ill.** - On Saturday, October 20 and Sunday, October 21 over 640 Special Olympics Illinois athletes and 40 Unified Partners will compete in the 2018 Fall Games. Fall Games is one of nine state sports competitions in Illinois. Athletes will compete in either equestrian, located at Bergmann Center in Poplar Grove and or volleyball, located at Harlem High School in Machesney Park.

Tentative Competition Times:

**Volleyball- Harlem High School in Machesney Park**

- Saturday, 9am-4pm
- Sunday, 8am-4pm

**Equestrian- BraveHearts at the Bergmann Centre- Poplar Grove**

- Saturday, 8am-4pm
- Sunday, 8am-4pm

Families are always encouraged to attend Special Olympics Illinois events to watch their athletes compete. Families Registration/Hospitality is open for all families and family members attending the Fall Games competition. Families should stop by Families Registration at both the Volleyball and Equestrian venues to pick up an event packet, giveaway and free tickets for the family raffle. Local refreshments and donuts will also be available as well as visitors' information for the Rockford area. Concessions will be available at Harlem High School for families to purchase snack and lunch items. A pizza food truck will be at the Equestrian venue Saturday and Sunday from 11:00am-4:00pm.

In the ancient tradition of the Olympics, the Opening Ceremony will be held to help kick off the games. The Opening Ceremony will start at 6:30pm on Saturday, October 20 in the Harlem High School main gymnasium. Regions will be assigned seating in the main gymnasium. Agencies may begin seating for Opening Ceremony at 6pm, as there is no parade of athletes at this event.

We are looking for volunteers to help at the volleyball venue on Saturday and Sunday. If you are interested in volunteering, go to <https://www.soill.org/event/fall-games/> and click on one of the date you want to register for and sign up online.

**Special Olympics Illinois**

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[www.soill.org](http://www.soill.org)

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



### **About Special Olympics Illinois**

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](#).

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