



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETES TO COMPETE IN STATE BASKETBALL TOURNEY
ISU & IWU to Host 1,650 Athletes

Bloomington, IL. – Friday, March 15 through Sunday, March 17, Special Olympics Illinois Athletes will compete in 2019 State Basketball Tournament. Over 1,650 Special Olympics Illinois Athletes and 520 coaches from across the state comprising of over 140 teams will put their abilities in basketball skills and teamwork to the ultimate test in the Special Olympics Illinois State Basketball Tournament.

WHEN:

- *Friday, March 15: 10 am – 5:30 pm*
- *Saturday, March 16: 8 am—5:00 pm*
- *Sunday, March 17: 8 am – 2:00 pm*

WHERE:

Horton Field House at Illinois State University & Shirk Center at Illinois Wesleyan University.

The Opening Ceremony will take place in the Horton Fieldhouse on Saturday at 7:00 pm.

Athletes will participate in five categories of play and are divisioned within each category based on their age and skill level: Senior/Male, Female, High School, Junior and Individual Skills

Volunteers are needed for State Basketball!

We are looking for volunteers to help out at this year's State Basketball Competition. You can register online at <https://www.soill.org/event/state-basketball/>

Volunteer time slots available:

- *Friday, March 15th from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.*
- *Friday, March 15th from 12:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.*
- *Sunday, March 17th from 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.*

Young Athletes have the opportunity to participate in basketball skills on Saturday, March 16 at Illinois State University's Horton Field House. To take part in the transitional exhibitions Young Athletes must have a valid Medical Application. For more information, please email youngathletes@soill.org.

To compete in the tournament, athletes must have trained for at least eight weeks. Senior/Male and High School teams qualified through one of eight regional tournaments in the state. All teams will play at least two games, and the tournament will be played according to IHSA rules.

The State Basketball Tournament Sponsors are Knights of Columbus, Law Enforcement Torch Run, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, Casey's General Store and United Airlines.

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

Special Olympics Illinois

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www.soill.org

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



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](#).

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