



**Special Olympics**  
Illinois



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Media Contact: Gina Fasolo, 312-865-9333 | [gfasolo@soill.org](mailto:gfasolo@soill.org)

Day of Contact: Sandy Nash: 618-974-9010 | [snash@soill.org](mailto:snash@soill.org)

**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS AIRPORT TO HOST PLANE PULL AND CAR SHOW TO BENEFIT SPECIAL OLYMPICS ILLINOIS**

*Participants test 'tug-of-war' skills by pulling a 30-ton plane*

**MURPHYSBORO, Ill.** – Teams of local law enforcement agencies, SIU students, fitness groups, high school students and the general public will participate in a larger than life tug-of-war challenge beginning at 11 a.m. Saturday, October 5. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. at the Southern Illinois Airport (556 N. Airport Rd., Murphysboro).

Special Olympics Illinois and the Law Enforcement Torch Run have collaborated with the Southern Illinois University School of Aviation to host the 4th Annual Southern Illinois Plane Pull. Teams of 10 will compete in a tug-of-war as they try to pull Southern Illinois University Aviation's 737 12 feet in the shortest amount of time.

Each participant must raise a minimum of \$50 or \$30 with a valid school id. Teams can have up to 10 members and will have a Special Olympics athlete join them as they pull for Special Olympics. The event will feature walk-up teams for individuals to join the morning of. Awards are given to the fastest pull in each division, fastest pull overall, and top fundraising team.

Teams compete in one of three different divisions:

- **Open Division:** (ideal for companies, school teams, gyms, friends, and families)
- **Public Safety Division:** (law enforcement officers, firefighters, paramedics, DNR, DOC and military personnel; teams need at least 5 public safety competitors to qualify)
- **SIU Division:** a division created solely for students and staff of Southern Illinois University.
- **High School Division:** high school students or teams

Last year's Plane Pull saw 18 teams and raised more than \$12,000 for Special Olympics Illinois. Join the conversation, on October 5, by using **#IllinoisPlanePull**. Learn more and register at [illinoisplanepull.com](http://illinoisplanepull.com).

***\*\*New this year, the Law Enforcement Torch Run will be hosting a Car Show in conjunction with the Southern IL Plane Pull event.***

Car enthusiasts are encouraged to show off their hot rod, custom show car, trucks, motorcycles or any other vehicle all to benefit the athletes of Special Olympics Illinois. Participants are required to raise or donate a minimum of \$30 for entry to the event. Awards will be given to Best in Show and Special Olympics athlete choice.

The Southern IL Plane Pull and Car Show are free to all spectators and perfect for individuals of all ages. Come out and watch your participants test their strength or cruise through and enjoy the various vehicles on display.

**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*



The 2019 Southern Illinois Plane Pull is presented by SIU School of Aviation and the Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run. The event is hosted by Southern Illinois Airport. Other sponsors are 17th Street BBQ, River Radio, and WSIL-TV 3.

**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 over 17,000 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 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 \$51 million over 33 years while increasing awareness of Special Olympics Illinois athletes and their accomplishments.

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