



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Southern Illinois Bass Busters Goes Fishing to Support Special Olympics Illinois

Marion, Ill. -- On Saturday, June 6, the first annual Buddy Bass tournament to benefit Special Olympics Illinois will take place at Crab Orchard Lake.

Teams will compete in pairs to bring home the grand prize, and other honors will also be bestowed on the participants. A pre-tournament meeting will take place on Friday, June 5 for all teams. The competition will begin at 6:00 AM CT on June 6.

Proceeds from the tournament will benefit the [Special Olympics Illinois Region K](#) which serves more than 1,600 athletes with developmental disabilities in the 24 counties of southern Illinois.

Crab Orchard Lake is a part of Crab Orchard Refuge, a 7,000 acre impoundment. It has a maximum width of one mile, maximum depth of 30 feet, and 121 miles of shoreline. The refuge is a part of the National Wildlife Refuge system, maintained by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

“We are looking forward to this event with the Southern Illinois Bass Busters and Special Olympics Illinois. Most of the refuge grounds remain open at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge during this time and we ask our visitors to continue to practice social distancing and follow other guidance from the Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), as well as local and state authorities,” said Neil Vincent, Visitor Services Manager, Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge. “With this being one of the first events of the summer season, we are hopeful for a beneficial experience for all.”

“The virtual weigh in will also be aired live at 3:00 pm CT on the [Special Olympics Illinois Region K Facebook page](#), allowing participants, fans, and supporters to see the final results as they were reported. Good luck to everyone who fishes in this tournament. As always be safe, stay healthy, and enjoy exploring the wild experience at your National Wildlife Refuge,” Vincent added.

To learn more about the tournament, including how you can participate, please [view the event here](#) to read the brochure and entry form.

Special Olympics Illinois is a not-for-profit sports 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. It strives to be a global leader in shaping a culture where people with and without intellectual disabilities are fully integrated into the community by providing year-round opportunities in competitive sports, health education, leadership, and personal development. If you are interested in being a part of Special Olympics Illinois and its vision, contact your local region, call 800-394-0562 or visit our website at www.soill.org. Follow Special Olympics Illinois on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

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