

What Is the Chicago Ducky Derby?

The Chicago Ducky Derby presented by Jewel-Osco is a signature fundraising event for Special Olympics Illinois. This year, 70,000 rubber ducks will splash down and race to the finish line. The winners of the race receive prizes, including an all-new Chevy Trailblazer courtesy of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana Chevy Dealers; an all-inclusive Apple Vacations trip to RIU Palace in Rivera Maya, Mexico; a cash prize; and more. The proceeds go to benefit the athletes of Special Olympics Illinois.

Why Adopt a Duck?

Your support allows more than 23,100 athletes and 13,000 Young Athletes to participate in year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports. Special Olympics programs enhance physical fitness, motor skills, self-confidence, social skills and encourage family and community support. Special Olympics Illinois aims 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.

- This year the ducks will drop off of the Columbus Drive Bridge and race towards Michigan Ave.
- The event will take place [on Thursday, August 5, 2021](#)
- The family festival featuring entertainment, games, prizes and more will take place at 401 N. Michigan from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Splashdown is at 1:00 p.m.
- If you can't make it in person, you can celebrate with us online! Join us from your home or office for the Ducky Derby Virtual Festival [beginning at noon](#). This is headlined by X Ambassadors. You can watch via Facebook or Twitch – more information at [chicagoduckyderby.com](#).
- Ducks are available for adoption for \$5 at [chicagoduckyderby.com](#)
- Join the conversation socially using #ChiDuckyDerby
- Special Olympics Illinois athlete Mallory Taylor of Naperville, Illinois serves as this year's Duck Ambassador. She'll hold up the winning duck on The Odyssey thanks to the official finish line sponsor: City Cruises anchored by Hornblower.
- Morgan Gautrat serves as this year's Celebrity Duck Ambassador. She and Mallory serve as #Unified Ambassadors as a way to promote Unified sports and programs offered through Special Olympics.
- The Chicago Ducky Derby has sold out three years in a row. This year the plan is to sell 70,000 ducks!

ABOUT SPECIAL OLYMPICS ILLINOIS:

- Special Olympics began in Illinois with the first games at Soldier Field in July 1968 thanks to the efforts of Eunice Kennedy Shriver and her peers. There are now more than 4.5 million athletes in 170 countries.
- **Special Olympics Illinois does not charge athletes or their families to participate in the program, so that is why fundraisers like the Chicago Ducky Derby are so important.**
- Special Olympics is also the largest public health provider, in the world, for those with intellectual disabilities.

OUR REACH

- 23,316 athletes (children and adults) with intellectual disabilities
- 13,385 Young Athletes ages 2-7 with and without intellectual disabilities
- 48,300 volunteers and coaches
- 201 competitions each year
- 18 Olympic-type sports
- Programs in 11 Regions, each coordinated by a Region Director and a volunteer committee
- Dynamic sports and corporate partnerships