Congratulations and thank you to all the 2020 Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge Participants, Donut Dashers, Volunteers, and Sponsors, who helped Special Olympics Illinois raise a preliminary total of $204,675.17. Check out photos of the Region I Polar Plunges in Effingham and at Eastern Illinois University on the Special Olympics Illinois Flicker Site: https://www.flickr.com/photos/specialolympicsillinois/albums/with/72157713345025286. Decatur Polar Plunge photos have been delayed due to the COVID-19 precautions, but will be available soon. Mahomet Polar Plungers & Donut Dashers, who were not able to attend the pick-up day, will be contacted to have your Plunger Hoodies/Dash shirt mailed to you. Friday, the LETR Leadership team will email Plunge Incentives Updates and Hoodie mailings information.

We need your thoughts to improve the Region I Polar Plunges. Please take the survey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XYSW2NC.

Join the Fun on FB!
- Monday – Motivational Monday
- Tuesday – Tasty Tuesday
- Wednesday – Wellness Wednesday
- Thursday - Trivia Thursday
- Friday – Facebook Live Friday at 1:00pm

Stay Healthy & Well while Social Distancing by joining us on Facebook! Daily Posts will keep you motivated, fit, & informed during the Stay-At-Home Order. Friday at 1:00pm join the interactive Facebook Live!

Like & Follow us!
https://www.facebook.com/SOILLRegion1/
COVID-19 Updates

Summer Games

Special Olympics Illinois has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 State Summer Games (June 12-14) in Bloomington-Normal due to concerns related to the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). We know this is disappointing for the entire Special Olympics Illinois family, but the health and safety of our athletes, volunteers, staff, and partners is the organization’s foremost priority.

We know how hard our athletes continue to train at home and work to stay in shape both physically and mentally. The Special Olympics Illinois team is working just as hard to plan athlete-centric sports festivals, when it is safe to return to competition. We are establishing a task force that includes athletes to plan events that will highlight the spirit and determination our competitors demonstrate each and every day. Stay tuned for more information.

In the meantime, we are creating new and exciting programming on our social channels daily. Visit www.soill.org to learn more and join in the fun!

When the time comes and it’s become acceptable to resume operations, we’ll be stronger and more dedicated than ever. We’re in this together.

SOFF Is STILL ON!

On April 15th, ALL present and past SOFF Coaches will receive an email from Vanessa with the SOFF Entry Forms attached. Please feel free to start your SOFF Entry Forms and turn them into Vanessa via email or mail!

Med Apps & Class A's

If you have Med Apps to turn in...Scan and Email your Medical Applications OR take a really good picture of the Med App and text to Jackie Mendoza at jmendoza@soill.org, 217-355-1750

Class A Coaches/ Chaperones should get certified at www.soill.org/class-a-registration/
Region I would like to share a brief Question and Answer section to help inform you about what Region I and our Organization is doing during this time of uncertainty and ever fluid circumstances due to the COVID 19 Virus.

Q: Are the Special Olympics Illinois Offices open in Normal Il. And Region I: Charleston, Champaign and Decatur?
A: No as of March 16th all offices are closed until at least April 30th. This is in accordance with the President and Governor’s mandated Shelter in Place Quarantine order.

Q: Can we still contact Region I staff with question and concerns?
A: Yes!! All Special Olympics Illinois Staff is working from home and checking e-mails and phone calls. You may contact us anytime between 8-4:30pm Monday-Friday at:
- Jackie Mendoza jmendoza@soill.org 217-355-1750 with any sports, intents, entry, med app questions.
- Vanessa Duncan vduncan@soill.org 217-345-2424 with Plunge information, development, fundraising and Young Athletes
- Joanie Keyes jkeyes@soill.org 217-428-9255 Any general questions, Overall Region I information, Grants, UCS, Outreach, State Competition

Please be patient if the staff doesn’t immediately respond as we all are home schooling our kids and are continuing to communicate through conference/video calls.

Q: Will Spring Games be rescheduled?
A: NO. While it is very disappointing to all of us that our Spring Games had to be cancelled it is for the Overall Safety of the athletes, Coaches, volunteers and families.

Q: What can you do with your time off at home??
A: Lots!! Please see important information above on a variety of videos, live Facebook chats and links to exciting daily programming on social media channels!! Send us via e-mail or Facebook your great stories about what you and your family are doing to stay healthy and active while practicing social distancing. https://www.soill.org/social-digital-media-viewing-guide/

Q: Will there be something fun to look forward to soon?
A: Yes!! The Special Olympics Illinois Staff is work hard to plan athlete-centric sports festivals, when it is safe to return to competition. We are planning events that will highlight the spirit and determination our competitors demonstrate every day.

We miss you all and look forward to getting back together for training and competitions! Stay Healthy and Stay positive!