Special Olympics Illinois Region I News
Summer 2020 Edition

Inside This Edition

- Athlete Highlight—Jay Borries
- Virtual Summer Games Thanks You!
- Virtual Golf Benefit
- Special Olympics Family Festival Update
- Med Apps Good for 3 years!
- Revenue Share Raffle
- Chicago and Southern Illinois Ducky Derby
- Happy 4th of July

Just Keep Swimming Jay!

Since May, Special Olympics Illinois Region I Swimming Athlete, Jay Borries, under the guidance of his Coach, Margaret Borries, has been practicing his swimming and improving skills for next year’s Swimming Competitions. Like many of the Special Olympics Athletes, Jay was disappointed, but not beat down, about this year’s Spring Swimming Competition, and ultimately, State Summer Games, being cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Rather, Jay just jumped right into the pool to continue his focus on becoming a better swimmer for next year’s competitions. It can only be said, that Jay is an inspiration to us all, and we hope to see Jay keep swimming!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our first-ever Virtual Summer Games! We hope you tuned in to our many virtual activities. From an exciting Opening Ceremony, daily Move it Minutes, goal-scoring e-sports tournaments, two informative ASL classes with Jen, visiting with new and old friends during Ducky Derby Sneak Peek game show, an emotional Closing Ceremony, and the groovin’ Victory Dance, it was a week to remember.

Did you miss an event? Want to rewatch parts of Virtual Summer Games? You can find all of this it by double-clicking on the event on the event schedule or on our YouTube page.

Like & Follow us!

https://www.facebook.com/SOILLRegionI/
The health and safety of Special Olympics Illinois athletes is our #1 priority at the Special Olympics Family Festival (SOFF). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis and out of an abundance of caution, we are planning a virtual SOFF event instead of an in-person event this year.

SOFF is always a much anticipated event, and we did not take this important decision lightly. We simply cannot risk bringing more than 1,800 people together during a pandemic, potentially putting the athletes, volunteers, coaches and family members at risk.

We are disappointed we won’t be able to meet in person this year; however, we’re excited to offer something different for our athletes in the form of a virtual event featuring some of the same perks our athletes look forward to receiving each year at SOFF. Planning is underway now and we intend to bring some joy to our friends on September 19.

There is no need to register athletes for this year’s virtual event. More information about the SOFF event will be shared soon. Please like or follow our Facebook Page, Twitter @mySOFFtweets and Instagram @mySOFFsnaps to stay connected with SOFF.


For Additional Information, the Event Flyer, or To Register, Go To: https://soill.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=802
Med Apps Valid for 3 Years!

Special Olympics Illinois (SOILL) has extended the timeframe for a valid Application for Participation (Med App) from two to three years from the date of the exam listed on the form. SOILL believes this will ease the challenges the Coronavirus has presented to your athletes and their families to schedule “non-essential” appointments with their medical professional to have the required sports physical completed.

This change also aligns with the Special Olympics, Inc. policy regarding valid and current Med App timeframes. **We are excited to announce that this increase from two to three years will be a permanent change in the Special Olympics Illinois Med App policy effective immediately.**

Coaches should see email from Jackie Mendoza for more information!

Revenue Share Raffle

Your TEAM will get 50% of all tickets sold by your TEAM!

Tickets will be sold for $5 a piece. The winning tickets will be pulled August 29 LIVE on the Region I Facebook Page. Winners need not be present to win.

Checks should be made out to: Special Olympics Illinois-Region I

Sold Ticket Stubs and money should be turned in to your local Region I office By Monday August 24th. Tickets may be sold by agencies from Oct. 2019-August 24th

2020 Ducky Derby

The Chicago Ducky Derby and Southern Ducky Derby Dash needs Teams to help and get involved! **How do I get involved?** Sales teams are forming now. Put together a group of friends, colleagues, or family members to join the fun. Teams compete for bragging rights and great prizes. To form a Sales Team for either Ducky Derby, visit [https://www.soill.org/fundraising-events/](https://www.soill.org/fundraising-events/) for additional information!
Have a Happy & Safe 4th of July Celebration!

Special Olympics Illinois Region I Staff wishes everyone a great 4th of July, in which we celebrate the independence of our Nation. Let’s honor our heroes today for all the incredible sacrifices they made to bring us this day. Proud to be an American because we have the freedom and opportunities to make the changes needed in our world today, like the Inclusion Revolution. From your Director, Joanie Keyes, and Assistant Directors, Jackie Mendoza and Vanessa Duncan, Happy Fourth of July!