



Dear Families & Friends,

Congratulations on your athlete’s advancement to the [2024 Special Olympics Illinois State Summer Games](#)! More than 3,400 athletes, 1,300 coaches, and 50 Unified Partners from 444 teams/agencies have qualified to compete at these games, which will be held from **June 7-9 at Illinois State University, Kingsley Jr. High, Grossinger Motors Arena, and Normal Community High School.**

We hope you can join us for the 2024 State Summer Games! To assist you in planning your trip, we’ve attached a compilation of highlights. Additional information, including special activity flyers and updated event schedules, can be found on our website.

Updates & Essential Information:

- Final competition schedules will be available on the [Summer Games website](#) on **May 31**. Check with your team’s head coach for additional information specific to your team.
- *NEW VENUE* Artistic Gymnastics** (Male and Female) –Competition will be held Friday and Saturday at **Grossinger Motors Arena**. See important information below on the Bag Policy for spectators. [Artistic Gymnastics Memo](#).
- Family Registration/Fan Zone at ISU: There

We invite you to join us at this spectacular event, helping us showcase the abilities of our athletes and illustrate the transformative power of sports, unity and community to change attitudes and lives.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information – kmilligan@soill.org or 309.888.2013. I’m looking forward to seeing you in Normal!

Warmest Regards,

Karen

Karen Milligan
Director – Athlete and Family Initiatives

Family Registration and Fan Zone: will be located inside Horton Field House at ISU, Grossinger Arena, and Normal Community High School. All families, both new and returning, including grandparents, Young Athletes' families, and friends, are encouraged to stop by. You can pick up schedule information, enjoy giveaways, participate in a free raffle, and get details on other special events happening at the Summer Games. Additionally, don't miss the **Fan Zone** area, which will feature vendors, diy keepsake craft projects (while supplies last), a station to create your own personalized fan sign for your athlete, immersive technology, unified bags demonstration and much more.

Family Registration/Fan Zone	Friday, June 7	Saturday, June 8
Horton Field House (ISU)	9am-3:30pm	8am-3pm
Grossinger Motors Arena	9am – 3:00pm	
Normal Community High School		8am-3pm

Family Credentials: Show your family support by wearing your family credentials! Family members wearing their credentials will be eligible for an extra raffle ticket! Don’t have family credentials? Stop by the Family Registration and Information center to get your **free** family credential.

Family Tailgate Picnic: Saturday, June 8th Outside south side of Horton Field House

We are thrilled to announce that Alexander’s Steakhouse will once again sponsor the Family Tailgate Picnic for the 34th time! A huge thanks to Alexander's Steakhouse for their incredible support. This FREE picnic is for parents, guardians, and siblings to enjoy a delicious lunch featuring hamburgers, chips, fruit, cookies, and water. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis at the Family Registration Center. Don't miss out on this fantastic family event! **We kindly ask that registered athletes enjoy their meals with their teams as arranged by SOILL, rather than attending the picnic. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!*

Competition & Venue Information

Athletics - All Runs, Walks, Relays, Assisted and Wheelchair Events	ISU Track	See Detailed Schedule Tab
Athletics - High Jump	ISU Track	Saturday Afternoon
Athletics - Mini-Jav	ISU Hancock Stadium	Saturday Morning
Athletics - Pentathlon High Jump	ISU Track	Saturday Afternoon
Athletics - Pentathlon Running Long Jump	ISU Track	Friday Afternoon
Athletics - Pentathlon Shot Put	ISU Track	Saturday Morning
Athletics - Running Long Jump	ISU Track	Saturday Morning
Athletics - Shot Put	ISU Track	Saturday Morning
Athletics - Softball Throw	ISU Practice Dome	Saturday Morning - Early Afternoon
Athletics - Standing Long Jump	ISU Practice Dome	Friday Afternoon
Athletics - Tennis Ball Throw	ISU Hancock Stadium	Saturday Morning
Bocce & Unified Bocce	ISU Soccer Stadium	Friday Afternoon - Saturday Afternoon
Gymnastics - Artistic	Grossinger Motors Arena	Friday Afternoon - Saturday Afternoon
Gymnastics - Rhythmic	Normal Community High School	Saturday Morning - Sunday Morning
Powerlifting	Kingsley Junior High School	Friday Afternoon - Sunday Early Afternoon
Soccer	ISU Intramural Fields	Friday Afternoon - Saturday Afternoon
Swimming	Normal Community High School	Saturday Morning - Sunday Morning
Young Athletes Culminating Event	ISU Hancock Stadium	Friday Afternoon
Young Athletes Transition Events	ISU Track or ISU Intramural Fields	Saturday Morning

Family Activities and Entertainment

Family Registration & Fan Zone	ISU Horton Field House	Friday Morning - Saturday Afternoon
Family Registration & Fan Zone	Normal Community High School	Saturday
Family Registration	Grossinger Motors Arena	Friday afternoon
Family Tailgate Picnic	ISU Turner Hall Lawn	Saturday 10:30am - 2pm
Opening Ceremony	ISU Hancock Stadium	Friday 8pm
Olympic Town	ISU Turner Parking Lot	Saturday 9am - 2pm
Photo Booths	ISU Horton Field House & Normal Community High School	Friday afternoon - Sunday morning
Immersive Technology	Olympic Town & Normal Community High School	Friday afternoon - Sunday morning
Miller Park Zoo	Miller Park Zoo	Friday & Saturday
Victory Dance	Uptown Normal	Saturday 7-8:30pm

Athlete Activities

Healthy Athletes Special Smiles	ISU Redbird Arena Lower Northeast Entrance	Friday Noon - 4pm
Healthy Athletes Healthy Hearing	ISU Redbird Arena Lower Northeast Entrance	Friday & Saturday
Healthy Athletes Opening Eyes	ISU Redbird Arena Lower Northeast Entrance	Friday & Saturday
Healthy Athletes Hydration Station	ISU Redbird Arena Ramp to Lower Northeast Entrance	Friday & Saturday
Healthy Athletes FUNfitness	ISU Redbird Arena Lower Northeast Entrance	Saturday 9am - 4pm

Hotel/motels: You can contact with the [Bloomington-Normal area Convention and Visitors Bureau \(CVB\)](#) at 309-665-0033 for assistance in finding hotel rooms.

Opening Ceremony: Friday, June 7th 8:00 pm Hancock Stadium

We hope you will join us for the Opening Ceremony that will include the Parade of Athletes, National Anthem, Athlete Oath, and the lighting of the new Special Olympics cauldron. There will be new and exciting entertainment that you will not want to miss along with the inspiring Law Enforcement Torch Run Final leg run. Bring your rally towels from last year for some fun crowd interaction with the Spirit Squad!

Victory Dance: Saturday, June 8th 7:00-8:30 pm Uptown Normal

The dance gives the athletes of Special Olympics Illinois a chance to celebrate their accomplishments and to socialize with others from around the state in addition to members of the community. The smiles and joy of the athletes are a testament to how Special Olympics Illinois helps transform lives.

Olympic Town: Saturday, June 8th ISU Turner Parking Lot

Olympic Town is back, bigger and better than ever! Be sure to stop by on Saturday between 9am – 2pm to be a part of all the fun and entertainment! You won't want to miss seeing our friends from Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, see the LETR Five-O race cars, Vendors, games, Dunk Tank, Darling Ducklings, Athlete Leadership, music, dancing and so much more!

Souvenirs: See attached flyer. Minerva Promotions will be selling souvenirs at ISU in the North Gym from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM on both Friday and Saturday. Minerva is offering a Free Name on the back, if ordered before June 3rd. [SHOP HERE](#). Cash and most major credit cards will be accepted for souvenir sales. CHECKS ARE NOT ACCEPTED.

American Legion Hospitality Area: Will be located in the Concourse of Hancock Football stadium. Athletes, coaches and families are welcome to come by and enjoy refreshments and snacks including fresh fruit, vegetable trays, fruit juices and more. This is all possible thanks to the generosity and volunteer support of the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliaries of Illinois. The Hospitality Tent will be open Friday and Saturday, 10:30am – 3:00pm

Healthy Athletes (Friday & Saturday at Redbird Arena) – The Healthy Athletes program offers free health services, screenings, and information to athletes, families and coaches in need. Participants are encouraged to attend this FREE event located in Redbird Arena on the lower-level concourse. Screening will be available for Special Smiles, Opening Eyes, Healthy Hearing. There will also be a Hydration Station where you can stop by to refill your water, get an electrolyte mix-in and learn some tips on how to stay hydrated for competition and summer weather.

Shuttle Buses: Families are welcome to use the free shuttle bus that will run in a circular route to all of the venues. See [Event Handbook](#) for additional information.

Tribute Park (located at the Special Olympics Illinois headquarters – 605 E. Willow, Normal): Special Olympics Illinois Tribute Park is a one-of-a-kind park dedicated to the athletes, families, coaches and supporters of Special Olympics Illinois. Located at the SO Illinois headquarters, it's a great place to visit and take pictures while you're in town. The water wall, beautiful bronze statues and granite walkways are a homage to the organization and those that have helped build it to what it is today. The Athlete Plaza is a showcase of bricks purchased in honor or as a memorial for the athletes of SO Illinois.

SUMMER GAMES RESOURCES:

- Text Alert and Event Status Updates:** In the event of rain or severe weather, the final decision to cancel or postpone an event will rest with the Games Director. Due to the size and number of events at Summer Games, cancelled events will not be made up. If in doubt, check the website – www.soill.org and Facebook pages for event status. To be alerted to any schedule changes due to weather or other conditions, please register for text alert by texting "SUMMER" to 844-393-0980
- [Summer Games Event Handbook](#)
- [Summer Games website](#)