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EVENT CALENDAR



Don't forget to check the calendar regularly for a comprehensive list of all our upcoming event - sports and fundraisers.

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Welcome John!

Special Olympics Kansas (SOKS) is pleased to announce that John Lair has been named the new President and Chief Executive Officer, effective May 1st. John will replace Chris Hahn who is retiring June 30th, after 29 years at the helm of the organization.

[Read more about John here.](#)

This year's tournament is scheduled for

March 16-18
Hays, KS



A [tentative schedule of events](#) can be downloaded here or from the [web site](#)

Congratulations to all the [Coaches in the West and Southeast Regions](#) who recently completed their basketball coaching clinic. Contact Terri Price, pricet@kssso.org, if you have any questions regarding Coaches training.

For Coaches in the North Central Region a Track & Field training is scheduled:

Friday, March 31st at Wamego High School Football Stadium, 6-8 p.m.
[Click on the link for details.](#)

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New SOKS Board Member



[Elena Lincoln, District #253](#) Special Education Director, was recently elected to the Board of Directors of SOKS. Welcome Elena.

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Volunteer Service

SOKS would like to compile a list of those volunteers who have spent a life-time serving SOKS. Please share with us the names of volunteers in your program who have served 20, 30, 40 years or more. Please send the name, local program, number of years and capacity in which they volunteered to Terri Price, pricet@kssso.org by March 15th.

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Making a Difference Awards -

Recognizing some of Kansas' Best of the Best!

Congratulations to the 2016 State Award winners:

- Coach of the Year - **Sue Elliott**, Olathe Trailblazers
- Family of the Year - **Ryan Prothe Family**, Gardner Gold
- Business of the Year - **Kansas State Council Knights of Columbus**
- Special Event Volunteer of the Year - **Denise Mentlick**, West Region
- Program Volunteer of the Year - **Michelle Leatherwood**, Dodge City Dodgers

[Learn more about our winners](#)

They have made a significant difference in the lives of our athletes, in our programming, and in our mission. SOKS is proud to recognize their accomplishments.



SOKS has some great events lined up for this spring, check out the events page and don't miss out there really is something for every one!

- March 12 - Heroes Pull, Shawnee
- March 18 - Merriam PD Popcorn Standoff
- April 21 - Cutthroat Cookoff, Wichita
- April 21 - JoCo KS Sheriff's Office Shoot Out, DeSoto
- April 22 - Celebrity Concert with Currington & Janson, Wichita Wingnuts Stadium
- April 26 - Red Robin Tip a Cop, Topeka
- April 29 - SW Kansas Truck Convoy
- May 6 - Heart and Sole Classic, Olathe
- May 6 - Emporia PD Golf Scramble, Emporia
- May 19 - Standby for Donuts - Cops on Top with Dunkin' Donuts
- May 20 - Car Show and Food Truck Festival, Leawood

And don't forget, registration is open for the Crappie Fishing Tournament which has been moved to November 4th.

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Reminders for Coaches

- 1) It's required that potential coaches send a copy of the concussion certificate to the SOKS HQ office to receive credit for taking the concussion training. The CDC, who sponsors the concussion training, doesn't send the certificates to us or provide us with a list of who has taken the course.
- 2) Coaching Philosophy- SOKS believes that coaches should strive to win but does not believe in the philosophy to "Win at all cost". We have adopted a philosophy of: "Athletes first; Winning second". [Click here to read more on why you need a coaching philosophy of your own.](#)
- 3) Familiarize yourself with the [Coaches'](#), [Athletes'](#) and [SOKS](#) Codes of Conduct.

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Special Olympics Kansas Delegation to the 2018 USA Games in Seattle, WA.

Coaching, even locally, is an incredible time commitment. We are deeply appreciative of the number of coaches willing to commit to attending the 2018 USA Games.

Thank you to the following coaches who were selected for the following sports:

- Athletics- **Noalee McDonald-Augustine**, Arc of Central Plains Buffalo
- Bocce- **Rose Simon**, Wichita Independents
- Bowling- **Ed Lee**, Topeka/Shawnee
- Powerlifting- **Gary Tanner**, Douglas County Jayhawks
- Swimming- **SueAnn Wanklyn**, The Roadrunners
- Tennis- **Sid Kanter**, Blue Valley Blue Streaks

Athlete nominations will be accepted from Mar 1-Apr 15. [Click here for the application form.](#) [More details to follow.](#)

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Save the Dates August 4-5

[Kansas Program Conference at Prairie Band Casino and Resort in Mayetta. Details to follow.](#)

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Coach Kak Eli-Schneider, Unified Partner Chessa McCalla and Unified Athlete Rylee Robinson recently attended Capitol Hill Day in Washington DC. They advocated for Unified Sports by meeting with State Representatives and delegates from other states.

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