



Special Olympics
Kansas

Coach News Update

"A good coach can change a game. A great coach can change a life." — John Wooden

Our volunteer coaches and program leaders play a unique and indispensable role in Special Olympics Kansas. You provide the sports skills and spirit that define a true athlete AND serve as a role model and character builder. Thank you for your service! Your hard work and time do not go unnoticed.

This newsletter is designed to provide you with resources to help you in your coaching journey and information on the happenings with SOKS.

Here's what you'll find below:

- [New Special Olympics Brand Standards](#)
- [Athlete Input Council](#)
- [Winter Games Information](#)
- [Online Family and Health Resources](#)
- [Charles E. Watson Softball and Golf Tournament](#)
- [KC Sports Memorabilia Auction](#)
- [Fit Families/Fit Friends Challenge](#)
- [Coaching Special Olympics Athletes Online Course](#)

There is lots of good and relevant information in this email so please take some time to look over all of it.

JOHN L. CASSIDY HEARTLAND WINTER GAMES



If your athlete has never participated in Winter Games, please consider this opportunity for them to try out a new sport! Competition is held for all skills levels, including beginner, and athletes can compete in one or all of the events. The best part yet is that it's FREE. The cost for facility rentals, lift tickets, rental equipment, training clinics and the competition is raised by the Heartland Winter Games Auction and Dinner. [Click here to download the informational flyer and find out more.](#)

NEW SPECIAL OLYMPICS BRAND STANDARDS

Special Olympics has introduced new brand standards for Special Olympics state programs and their affiliated local programs and schools.

The biggest **question** will be - do we have to get all new apparel right now?

The **answer** is - you should make every effort to order apparel that meets these guidelines if you have the financial capability to do so. If you don't, please work with local printing companies or businesses to see if they will sponsor new uniforms. (Sponsor logos can appear on warm-ups or other non-competition apparel but may not be present on competition clothing.)

[Download Brand Standard Document](#)

ATHLETE INPUT COUNCIL

Do you have a leader on your team? Tell them about the new Athlete Input Council!! What is an Athlete Input Council? A way for Special Olympics program leaders to be in touch with athlete interests and opinions on needed improvements, sports, competitions, coaching and other programs. A place for athletes to practice leadership skills. A way for athletes to provide input and feedback to and from: Schools, group homes, day training programs, local programs and teams, and the SOKS Board of Directors.

[Online Application](#)

More information can be found at kssso.org/ksaic. The deadline to apply is Sept. 21.

FAMILY AND HEALTH RESOURCES AT KSSO.ORG

Did you know we had a variety of health and family resources with some that are specific to Kansas and your local regions on our site? Check them out here:

[Family Resources](#)

[Health Resources](#)

CHARLES E. WATSON SOFTBALL AND GOLF TOURNAMENT

The annual state softball and golf tournament is coming up October 5-7 in Wichita. [Find out more information here.](#)

[Softball Resources](#)

[Golf Resources](#)

KC SPORTS MEMORABILIA AUCTION

Join us October 20, 2018 at the Abdallah Shrine Temple, 5300 Metcalf Ave, Shawnee Mission, KS 66202

Hundreds of signed sports memorabilia up for auction including items like a Salvador Perez World Series Jersey, Rick Flair red boot, Bobby Knight folding chair, plus items from the NHL, MLB, NFL, KU and more!

[Click HERE](#) for more information.

[Volunteers Needed](#)



Hosted by the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Kansas

FIT FAMILIES/FIT FRIENDS CHALLENGE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Fit Families/Fit Friends is a 6-week fitness challenge for athletes and their supporters (family members or others) to get active and healthy together. Groups track their physical activity and nutrition in a weekly journal and submit their progress along the way. The challenge offers incentives as families/teams work towards a healthier lifestyle. Participants can repeat the challenge in efforts toward year round fitness.

Families who complete the challenge and all required documents will receive a team reward at the end of the 6 weeks!

[Register Today!](#)

[Please share with any families in your local program that may be interested.](#)



COACHING SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETES ONLINE COURSE

This course is a self-paced online course designed to be taken by individual coaches.

This course prepares Special Olympics coaches to use their sport-specific knowledge in coaching athletes with intellectual disabilities. The 24/7 convenience and low cost make it attractive to new coaches in preparation for their first Special Olympics coaching role. It also meets the Special Olympics standards and competencies for coach certification. For veteran Special Olympics coaches, this course serves as a reminder of the essentials sometimes forgotten after years of coaching. The course also satisfies the Special Olympics recertification or continuing education requirement. [Find Out More](#)

CHECK THESE OUT

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fT4KjyWt6M> - Athlete Leadership in action. Adam Hayes, athlete leader from SOMD, had an idea for filming the athlete manifesto while in Chicago for the Athlete Input Council.

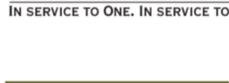
<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/get-healthy-orlando/os-special-olympians-get-fit-20180802-story.html> - Amazing story in Orlando Sentinel about SO FL coach using Fit 5 for soccer team. The team won gold at USA Games!

<https://bit.ly/2LXsFSn> - Be a Game Changer, an oldie but still a goodie!

Are you looking for volunteer coaches? We can help.

Please contact Chris Burt, Vice President of Health and Community Outreach, at burtc@kssso.org or 913-236-9290 x107.

Thank you to our Mission Partners



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