

Be Cool.

TAKE THE PLUNGE.



COOL SCHOOL *Challenge*



WHAT IS THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS ILLINOIS POLAR PLUNGE?

The Polar Plunge is a signature fundraising event for Special Olympics Illinois and a spectacle like no other. The Cool School Challenge is a unique opportunity for students, teachers, teams, and clubs to support their local Special Olympics Illinois athletes by committing to #PlungeIllinois in 2025.

1. To be considered a Cool School Challenge, be featured on the website leaderboards, and qualify for regional and state contests, the Cool School Challenge has to take place on your school's campus. Any school that attends a traditional Polar Plunge site will be treated as a traditional Polar Plunge team.
2. Each participating school will have its own Classy campaign page. This will allow the school to form teams within the individual campaign and help to build more fun, in-school competition (i.e. football team vs swim team)
3. To register for your own Cool School Challenge, please contact **Debbie Kelly** and fill out the [Cool School Plunge interest form](#). Once that step is completed, your school's campaign will be set up and teams can be registered.
4. Each school must commit to having at least 30 students participating as well as a fundraising minimum of \$3,000 raised for staff from Special Olympics Illinois to facilitate the event onsite.
5. Regionally, the Cool School Challenge that raises the most money will earn a pizza party for their team. Schools will also compete across the state - with the winning group receiving a SCHOOL-WIDE pizza party, along with a LARGE trophy.
6. Cool School Challenge must take place on your school's campus during the week, **NO WEEKENDS**.

PLUNGE SAFETY POLICY

The first priority of Special Olympics Illinois is always the safety and health of our athletes, volunteers, Staff, and supporters. For that reason, all of our Special Olympics Illinois-hosted events will be held within our local health and CDC event guidelines.

Cool School Challenge participants are encouraged to be safe with their Polar Plunge choices. During our hosted Polar Plunge events, Special Olympics Illinois utilizes professional dive teams in the water and emergency responders to ensure the safety of participants. Do not attempt to jump into a lake, river, or any other open body of water to participate in the Cool School Challenge.

Participants should not do anything that could physically harm themselves or others. Special Olympics Illinois is not responsible for any injuries that occur while participating in the Cool School Challenge.

WHAT IS THE COOL SCHOOL CHALLENGE?

Be one of the COOLEST schools in the state of Illinois. Each year, students and staff sign up to BE COOL and take the Polar Plunge to support athletes locally and across Illinois, all in the name of inclusion and PLAYING UNIFIED.

This is your schools change to compete with local schools in your area as part of the Polar Plunge fun.

The goal? Be the COOLEST School in your region and statewide by “making the biggest splash.” And by splash, we mean making a HUGE impact for those with intellectual disabilities, which will make for a better community – at your school and in the world.

Each Special Olympics Illinois region will name the school that raises the most money the “Coolest School” of the region and will receive a trophy, plus ultimate bragging rights. And a few other pretty cool prizes.

So what are you waiting for? Contact **Debbie Kelly** and learn more or get your school signed up today.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

GETTING STARTED

Appoint a designated staff member as your team captain. This person will serve as the point of contact between the school and Special Olympics Illinois.

Pick a team name that represents your school – and be sure to include your school name when you choose.

Register students and staff from your school who are committed to raising a minimum of \$100 person. This can be done at plungeillinois.com.

To register your school today, please reach out to **Debbie Kelly**.

YOUR IMPACT

The Cool School Challenge is a great team-building experience, strengthening your school community, while also teaching students the responsibility of citizenship and the importance of inclusion. Plus, it's a ton of fun and benefits the athletes of Special Olympics Illinois.

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“The highlight of the Andrew High School Cool School Plunge was seeing all the diverse clubs within the school (social, academic, and athletic) bond together as one unit, plunging in support of the athletes of Special Olympics Illinois and showing what their “Thunderbolt Pride” is all about! It truly was an amazing event for everyone!”

- Andrew High School, Assistant Principal

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PRIZES

Outside of helping to support life-changing program for the Special Olympics Illinois athletes, participants in your Cool School Challenge will also be rewarded with SWAG!

These incentives will be available at the \$250, \$500, \$1,000, \$2,500 and \$5,000 levels. Check out plungeillinois.com to learn more and view the incentives when they are available.

REGISTER YOUR SCHOOL NOW AT [PLUNGEILLINOIS.COM](https://plungeillinois.com)





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