Be Cool.

TAKE THE PLUNGE.

2027 LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN POLAR PLUNGE FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS ILLINOIS

COOL SCHOOL



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. Every year, thousands of individuals, organizations, and businesses support Special Olympics Illinois athletes by taking icy dips into Illinois waters.

WHAT IS THE COOL SCHOOL CHALLENGE?

The Cool School Challenge invites students, teachers, and clubs to support Special Olympics Illinois by taking the Polar Plunge in 2027.

Compete with local schools statewide to earn the title of “Coolest School” by raising funds and promoting inclusion through Unified sports. The top fundraising school in each region wins a trophy, bragging rights, and other cool prizes, all while making a big impact for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

So, what are you waiting for? Contact Debbie Kelly (**dkelly@soill.org**) or your local Plunge Director and learn more to get your school signed up today.

For more information and resources check out our website, **www.plungeillinois.com**.





WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

GETTING STARTED

1. 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.

2. To be considered a Cool School Challenge, be featured on the website leaderboards, and qualify for regional and state contests, the Cool School Challenge must take place on your school's campus during the week, NO WEEKENDS. Any school that attends a traditional Polar Plunge site will be treated as a traditional Polar Plunge team.

3. Each participating school will have its own campaign fundraising 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)

4. To register for your own Cool School Challenge, please contact Debbie Kelly or your local Plunge Director and fill out the Cool School Plunge interest form. Once that step is completed and a date is confirmed by Special Olympics Illinois staff, your school's campaign will be set up and teams can be registered.

5. Each school must raise a minimum of $3,000. This goal is easily achievable with just 30 participants—students, faculty, or community members fundraising together. Each plunger must raise a minimum of $100 to plunge. Every plunge helps build a more inclusive school community and supports the mission of Special Olympics Illinois.

6. What Does "Plunging" Look Like? There are plenty of fun and creative ways for your school to take the plunge! Special Olympics Illinois can provide an inflatable pool or partner with your local fire department to use a portable tank or even a fire hose. We've seen everything from a water trough, water balloon fights and buckets of cold water poured over students. Plunging should be flexible, accessible and as imaginative as you want it to be!

7. The school that raises the most money in their region will win the regional plunge trophy and a Dunkin' party for their top fundraising team. Statewide, schools will compete for a school-wide Dunkin' party and Grand Cool School Plunge trophy. Track your school's progress on the Cool School Challenge page at plungeillinois.com.

> **"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*

WHY HOST A COOL SCHOOL PLUNGE?

Hosting a Cool School Plunge is more than a fundraiser, it's a powerful way to build a stronger, more inclusive school community. It aligns with the Special Olympics Illinois Unified Champion Schools strategy by engaging students of all abilities in meaningful, school-wide activities that promote respect, leadership, and teamwork.

The Cool School Challenge is also a fun and impactful team-building experience that teaches students the value of inclusion and responsibility of citizenship. Best of all, it directly benefits the athletes of Special Olympics Illinois.

INCENTIVES

Outside of helping to support life-changing programming 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.

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.

