

## **Special Olympics Illinois athletes to compete in Area 12 Bowling**

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FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS – Families, volunteers and spectators are invited to cheer on Special Olympics athletes- men and women, boys and girls- as they compete in Southwestern Area 12 Bowling. The competitions will be held on two consecutive Sundays, September 23 and October 1, at St. Clair Bowl located 5950 Old Collinsville Road in Fairview Heights, IL. Each day begins at 9:00 a.m. with Opening Ceremonies kicking off the competition.

Over the course of both event dates, 441 athletes representing 25 agencies from Area 12 will bowl in individual, doubles and team competition. Southwestern Area 12 is comprised of the following counties: Bond, Calhoun, Clinton, Fayette, Jersey, Madison, Monroe, Montgomery, St. Clair and Washington.

Gold medal winners from the Area events will qualify to advance to the Southern Sectional Bowling on November 5, 2017 at St. Clair Bowl.

If you would like to volunteer for one of the three bowling dates, please email swhitlatch@soill.org or call 618-654-6680 to reach the Southern Regional Office located at 1318 Mercantile Drive in Highland.

The Illinois Knights of Columbus, Law Enforcement Torch Run and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois are Official Partners of Special Olympics Illinois.

Special Olympics Illinois is a not-for-profit organization offering year-round training and competition in 19 sports for nearly 22,000 traditional athletes with intellectual disabilities and nearly 21,000 Young Athletes ages 2-7 with and without intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics transforms the lives of people with intellectual disabilities, allowing them to realize their full potential in sports and in life. Special Olympics programs enhance physical fitness, motor skills, self-confidence, social skills and encourage family and community support.