

## **Friday and Saturday, October 22, 23**

### **Embassy Suites Conference Center, Noblesville**

Special Olympics Indiana is excited to present our annual State Conference. This year we focus on family and leadership. It is important to give our athletes opportunities to grow, learn, and reach their maximum potential. We continue to emphasize our athletes' health and fitness, but also the support the family needs to build and plan for their athlete's future. We will talk about new ways to strengthen the skills of all leaders within Special Olympics Indiana.

#### **CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**

Registration fees cover all sessions, conference materials, recognition luncheon and an attendee gift. Light morning snacks are also included. **Registration deadline is October 8.** All Conference information is available on the website at: <https://soindiana.org/resource-library/>

All Conference Registration is done through online site: <https://2021stateconf.my-trs.com/>

Conference Fee: \$55.00

**SOSO Award Winner Package:** FREE to attend the entire day  
Area award winners are free  
Area family award winners receive four total entries free

Luncheon-only: \$35.00

#### **HOUSING**

A room block is reserved at the Embassy Suites Conference Center in Noblesville. The room rate is \$162.00 plus taxes and fees. This includes open bar from 5-7 PM and breakfast.

13700 Conference Center Drive South  
Noblesville IN 46060

To make a hotel reservation in this room block, visit **Booking Link:** [Embassy Suites Special Olympics State Conference Room Reservation](#)

Attendees are responsible for contacting the hotel directly to make reservations and room cancellations. Deadline to reserve a room is 11:59 PM on September 20th. Act fast! Requests received after September 20th are subject to regular rates and space availability. If you have accessibility needs, please follow up your online reservation with a call to the hotel front desk.

#### **STATE CONFERENCE CONFIRMATIONS**

Confirmation, including a map and final details, will be emailed to all registrants prior to the conference. In the meantime, if you have questions or concerns, please contact Kevin Aders by email ([kaders@soindiana.org](mailto:kaders@soindiana.org)) or phone (800-742-0612 ext. 235). *You are responsible for retaining a copy of your registration.*

#### **STATE CONFERENCE CANCELLATIONS**

Conference cancellations received before the deadline will receive a full refund for their Conference Registration. No refunds will be given after October 4<sup>th</sup>. Attendees are responsible to cancel their own hotel reservations and are subject to the hotels cancellation policy.

# 2021 State Conference

## Session Descriptions

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### Friday, October 22

**7pm - 8pm**                      **EARLY BIRD CHECK-IN**

Conference attendees attending Friday evening entertainment and social hour can check-in for the conference and pick up their nametags and conference materials.

**7pm - 9pm**                      **SOUVENIRS**

Conference attendees attending Friday evening can check out the souvenir options and get a jump start on purchasing some great end of the year deals.

**7pm - 8pm**                      **SOCIAL HOUR**

Join us in Ditslear A, B, and C for food and beverages. Spend the hour mingling and catching up with old friends and get prepared for Trivia competition and then dancing. A full evening of entertainment awaits you. Cash Bar with some free coupons provided.

**8pm - 9pm**                      **FRIDAY NIGHT TRIVIA**

*Hosted by Craig Tornquist*

Join comedian Craig Tornquist for an hour of hysterical trivia.

**9pm - 10pm**                      **FRIDAY NIGHT DANCE PARTY**

Craig finishes out the night with an hour of dance music for all to enjoy as we wind down our social time together. Let's see those dance moves!

### Saturday, October 23

**8am - 2:30pm**                      **VENDOR TABLES AND POSTER BOARD PRESENTATIONS**

Conference sponsors will have tables set up to share information to attendees on the assistance they offer. Athlete leaders will be sharing Poster Board presentations of various projects and activities they have been involved in over the last year.

**8am - 4pm**                      **SOUVENIRS**

Conference attendees will have the opportunity to purchase souvenirs at great end of year pricing. Get an early start on your holiday shopping and check out the great deals.

**9am - 4:30pm**                      **ATHLETE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING**

Athlete chairs will be in sessions all day but join the conference group for lunch and at the end of the day.

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**9am-10am**

## **OPENING GENERAL SESSION**

### **LIFE LESSONS FROM TED LASSO**

*Presenters: Jeff Mohler, Ted Green*

Ted Lasso is the lead character and coach on Apple TV's big hit show "Ted Lasso". He's an American football coach hired by an English soccer club to be their new coach. Sure, he doesn't know a thing about soccer, but Ted knows people. And he knows how to coach. Lessons include:

- The happiest animal on earth . . . the goldfish. Why? It has a 10-second memory.
- Success is not about wins and losses. It's helping others be the best versions of themselves.
- There's something worse than being sad. And that's being alone and sad.
- They say, "youth is wasted on the young." Don't let the wisdom of age be wasted on you.

And my favorite? "Well, you'll have to come and find out. If you do, please be curious, not judgmental."

## **10:10am - 11:25am BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

### **ORGAN DONATION AND FIT 5 LIVE**

*Presenters: Andi Atherine, Nicholas Herran, Itzel Graber and Teala Raetz*

Organ donation saves lives! Since 1998, Donate Life Indiana has been the state-authorized nonprofit organization responsible for managing the Indiana Donor Registry. Our mission is to save lives by creating opportunities for all Indiana citizens to sign up on our official state registry while striving to raise awareness for organ, tissue and eye donation and transplantation through public education. This presentation will share information about the importance of organ donation and how signing up to be an organ donor can help others. You will also get an opportunity to meet a transplant recipient whose life has been saved because of the miracle of transplantation.

COVID may be keeping us from high fives, but it can't keep us from the **Fit-5!** Physical activity, nutrition, and hydration come to life in this all-3D session. Come join Health Messengers to learn and experience the Fit-5 in action.

### **LEADERSHIP & COMMUNICATION (Request County Coordinators and Area Directors attend)**

*Presenter: Craig Tornquist*

Craig Tornquist believes there are three effective ways to lead: By Example...By Example...and By Example! Our athletes and volunteers will watch what we do far more than they will listen to what we say. In this interactive session, Craig will demonstrate tips on how to show interest, respect, and appreciation, for everyone in the SOIN family.

### **STARTING AND MAINTAINING A SUCCESSFUL H.S. UNIFIED SPORTS PROGRAM (UCS Attendees)**

*Presenter: Alan Bodenstein, Kevin Anders, Ryan Pepple, and Mike Branam*

There are many important aspects in regards to starting and maintaining Unified sports programs. The recruiting of both Athletes and Partners, funding your program, and on field coaching are all important but not the only issues we will address. Our presenters have all started and coached multiple successful sports at their respective schools.

### **SOIN MASTER BRANDING**

*Presenters: Nate Barnes and Kelly Ries*

One of our biggest assets is our reputation and the global recognition of our master brand. Join us to get an overview of the Special Olympics Indiana branding and the accredited program branding. This session will review the core tenets of the brand and address the Do's and Don'ts of using the Special Olympics logo and name. This session is a great review for our seasoned veterans, and excellent introduction to new program staff.

## **TREASURER TRAINING 101 - THE BASICS**

*Presenters: Maureen Rumer and Karen Kennelly*

If you are a new treasurer, just want a refresher course, or have questions about the basics, join us! We will cover all the basics of depositing money and making expenditures including a step-by-step review of the required forms. We will also walk through how to access your credit card charge details and how to keep track of the free stuff your donors give to your program. (Open to Treasurers and County Coordinators ONLY)

## **GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS AND BENEFITS**

*Presenter: Gordon Homes*

Introduction and discussion about Medicaid, Medicare, Waivers, SSI, and SSDE, Adult Child Benefits, juggling Social Security, and employment.

## **BASKETBALL COACHES TRAINING - Classroom**

*Presenter: Drew Eubank, Ron Moore, and John Bodey, IHSAA Coaches*

This session will cover basketball coaching topics helpful to coaches of teams at all levels. Learn additional skills and resources to improve the ability of your players. The morning session will be in a classroom-style setting. The afternoon session will be on-court. Sessions will include group discussion and feedback, so come prepared to share your own thoughts and ideas.

## **11:35am-1:05pm RECOGNITION LUNCHEON**

*Speaker: TJ Nelligan*

*Co-EMCEE: Jeff Mohler and Athlete TBD*

An entrepreneur, advocate, and published author, TJ Nelligan is a man of action who has made it his life's mission to serve and benefit others. An advocate for the needs of those with both intellectual and developmental disabilities, Nelligan served as Commissioner of the Commission of Higher Education for the State of New Jersey from 2005 to 2008. He was honored with the Man of the Year Award by SONJ in April 2007 at the SONJ annual gala. Montville Township High School inducted Nelligan into its Hall of Fame in 2004. Nelligan was named Montville Township Citizen of the Year in 2006 for his work with the special-needs population and the organizations that assist them.

We will recognize some outstanding people as we present the 2021 *Spirit of Special Olympics Indiana* awards! Jeff Mohler will also share some words of inspiration.

## **1:15pm-2:30pm BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

### **INCLUSIVE HEALTH**

*Presenter: Itzel Graber and Kim Szelinski*

Inclusive health is the inclusion of all people, including those with intellectual disabilities (ID), in mainstream health policies and laws, programming and services, training programs, research, and funding streams. People with ID are one of the largest and most medically underserved populations. Because of a range of systemic challenges, including inadequate provider training and inaccessible facilities, they have less access to quality health care and health promotion programs. As a result, people with ID experience dramatically higher rates of preventable disease, chronic pain and suffering, and premature death. The objectives of the Inclusive Health training are to: equip health care providers with tools and resources to provide equitable care for people with ID and promote practice transformation that deliberately supports inclusive, accessible care for those with ID.

## **UNIFIED LEADERSHIP IN INDIANA**

*Presenter: Elesia Yoon*

The fourth guiding principle taught to new leaders attending Athlete Leadership University (ALU) is Unified Leadership. It is defined as: *Building from sport, Unified Leadership teaches leaders of all abilities to value and learn from each other, and inspires change to create environments where people with ID succeed in meaningful jobs and roles.* Join this session to hear about how ALU graduates and the SOIN community have put Unified Leadership into practice and how you can be part of the future as SOIN continues to grow.

## **UNIFIED HS SPORTS COMMISSIONER Q&A: CHAMPIONS TOGETHER UNIFIED BOWLING/ IHSAA UFF AND UTr&F**

*Presenters: Mike Hasch, IHSAA Assistant Commissioner, Robert Faulkens and Brian Lewis*

Join Mike Hasch from Special Olympics Indiana to learn more about the Champions Together Unified Bowling Tournament. Shortly after, join in a Q&A with IHSAA Assistant Commissioner Robert Faulkens on Unified Flag Football and Assistant Commissioner Brian Lewis on Unified Track & Field. (Open to School Programs ONLY)

## **WHAT'S NEXT WITH GMS - ACCESSING GMS ONLINE**

*Presenter: Cathy Elzinga, Scott Mingle*

Preview what steps Special Olympics Indiana is taking to provide online accessibility to the Games Management System (GMS). Learn the steps your program can take to gain online access to the features of GMS as an athlete database and Games registration tool. Additionally, there will be training on how to pull info in GMS, such as athlete / volunteer listings, expiration dates and other program information.

## **TREASURER TRAINING 201 - ADVANCED**

*Presenters: Karen Kennelly & Maureen Rumer*

An essential class in helping you interpret the information provided in the quarterly reports! We will also cover the often-confusing topics of grant management, county carry-over funds, and budgeting. If you are a County Coordinator or Treasurer join us for this fun filled hour!

## **GUARDIANSHIP, EMPLOYEMENT, AND TRANSITION**

*Presenter: Gordon Homes*

Introduction to guardianship, pros and cons, alternatives, juggling employment, government benefits, and ABLE accounts, and transitioning into adulthood.

## **BASKETBALL COACHES TRAINING (offsite Hands-on training Part 1)**

*Presenter: Drew Eubank, Ron Moore, and John Bodey, IHSAA Coaches*

This session will cover basketball coaching topics helpful to coaches of teams at all levels. Learn additional skills and resources to improve the ability of your players. The morning session will be in a classroom-style setting. The afternoon session will be on-court. Sessions will include group discussion and feedback, so come prepared to share your own thoughts and ideas.

## **2:40pm- 3:55pm      BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

### **VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR WORKSHOP (FOR ALL VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS)**

*Presenters: Kevin Aders, Lindsay Blythe*

Whether you are a seasoned Volunteer Coordinator or newly assigned to this role for your County or Area this workshop is for you. Join us as we will talk about VMS as well as network with each other on ideas and ways to enhance the Volunteer experience at all levels. We will be creating a Volunteer Engagement Council. Bringing this team on board will help us with the evaluation of our processes as we continue to move forward and on volunteer communication, training, recognition, recruitment, and

retention.

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## **SOIN WEBSITE TRAINING & INPUT WORKSHOP**

*Presenter: Nate Barnes*

This session will review the recently updated Special Olympics Indiana website.

New navigation features, an updated home page, events section, and athlete pages are all renovated components on the Special Olympics Indiana website.

After participating in an audit and requesting feedback from the county programs, we have incorporated some of those suggestions including a new user interface, and enhanced navigation features. This session will afford an excellent opportunity to view these revisions and give input about the updated website.

## **ERSKINE GREEN TRAINING INSTITUTE: A POSTSECONDARY VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM**

*Presenter: Megan Stevenson*

Erskine Green Training Institute (EGTI) is a postsecondary vocational training program that provides training in hospitality, food service, and healthcare environments. Housed within the Courtyard by Marriott in Muncie, Indiana, EGTI provides an intensive 10 to 13-week training within a specific vocation chosen by the student. In addition to hands-on training, students will reside within the hotel for the duration of their training which allows growth for both vocational and independent living skills. Join EGTI staff as they review details of its programming along with data from the five years of operation.

## **SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST**

*Presenter: Gordon Homes*

First vs. Third Party, Pooled & Miller Trust. Deep dive into special needs trusts, helping you avoid costly mistakes.

## **BASKETBALL COACHES TRAINING offsite Hands-on Training Part 2**

*Presenters: Drew Eubank, Ron Moore, and John Bodey, IHSAA Coaches*

This session will cover basketball coaching topics helpful to coaches of teams at all levels. Learn additional skills and resources to improve the ability of your players. The morning session will be in a classroom-style setting. The afternoon session will be on-court. Sessions will include group discussion and feedback, so come prepared to share your own thoughts and ideas.

## **BENEFITS AND ABLE ACCOUNTS: WORKING TOGETHER FOR YOUR FUTURE**

*Presenter: Amy Corbin, Brady Powers*

This session will introduce you to disability benefits and the most common issues that people with disabilities and those that support them face regarding balancing any work incentive, planning, and saving for the future with disability benefits. As part of this presentation, we will explore ABLE account basics, including the benefits of an ABLE account, who is eligible, what the money can be used for, how to enroll and more.

**4pm-4:30pm**

**COUNTY/AREA NETWORKING**

**BUILDING BETTER AREA PROGRAMS**

*Presenters: Scott Mingle, Regional Managers*

Join us for a planning session to grow and strengthen our area programs to better support county programs with sports competitions. Learn more about what Area programs do and how County programs can assist.

Please register for the Area Networking session that your program is affiliated with.

**Area 4, 5, 7, 9, 10**

**Area 1, 2, 3, 6, 8**

**4:30pm-5pm**

**GENERAL SESSION**

**ATHLETE LEADERSHIP PRESENTATION TO ALL ATTENDEES**

Everyone is invited to attend this short closing session where the Athlete Leadership Council will be presenting their findings on the topics they have been working on for the past several months. They will be talking about ALC's at the County Level and volunteer recognition ideas.