

## Friday and Saturday, October 28, 29

### Embassy Suites Conference Center, Noblesville

Special Olympics Indiana is excited to present our annual State Conference. This year we ask you to “Step Up to The Plate” for our athletes. 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 9.** All Conference information is available on the website at: <https://soindiana.org/state-conference/>

All Conference Registration is done through online site: <https://2022stateconference.my-trs.com/>

Conference Fee: \$65.00

SOSO Award Winner Package: 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 \$165.00 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 Room Reservations-Special Olympics 2022 Conference](#)

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 25th. Act fast! Requests received after September 25th 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 (317-328-2010). *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 14<sup>th</sup>. Attendees are responsible to cancel their own hotel reservations and are subject to the hotels cancellation policy.

# 2022 State Conference

## “Step Up To The Plate”

### Session Descriptions

---

#### Friday, October 28

**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.

**6:30pm-8pm**                      **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.

**6pm-8pm**                      **SOCIAL HOUR**

Join us in Ditslear A and B for food and beverages. Spend the hour mingling and catching up with old friends. We will prepare everyone for our screening of “The Best We’ve Got” A full evening of entertainment awaits you. Cash Bar provided.

**8:30pm-10pm**                      **“The Best We’ve Got”**

The Carl Erskine Story. Private screening to motivate your team to plan for your local viewing in 2023.

---

#### Saturday, October 29

**8am - 2:40pm**                      **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. Get an early start on your holiday shopping and check out the great deals.

**10am - 2:30pm**                      **ATHLETE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING**

Athlete chairs will be in sessions for part of the day and then join the conference for lunch and afternoon breakout sessions.

**9am-10am**

## **OPENING GENERAL SESSION**

### **CONNECTING WITH AN ALOHA MINDSET**

*Presenters: Kevin Wanzer*

Kevin has spent over the last three decades addressing over 3,000 audiences in 49 states and around the world. His speaking program, "Connecting with an ALOHA Mindset", has become a tour de force, sending a message that empowers audiences to realize that life is a series of choices. His program includes simple ideas stemming from the fact that we choose to act with kindness, we choose to love what we do, who we spend time with and who we serve, we choose to embrace those who are left behind or forgotten and we choose to laugh.

### **10:10am - 11:25am BREAKOUT SESSION #1**

#### **ERSKINE: FUNDRAISING & NEW DONORS**

*Presenters: Scott Furnish, Kelly Ries, and Stephanie Manner*

Join us for a collaborative discussion on ways to incorporate fundraising initiatives for your County Programs around the Erskine EPIC film premiers.

As we brainstorm and discuss tactics to generate revenue around the EPIC project to cultivate relationships with key stakeholders in your local program.

This session will afford program teams the opportunity to devise a plan for successful fundraising events around the Erskine premier project.

#### **ERSKINE: SCHOOLS & COUNTY CONNECTIONS**

*Presenter: Mike Hasch and Tori Batson*

Discussion about how "The power of Sport" can be utilized to bring the schools and counties together. Sampling of the EPIC curriculum and how it can be used to benefit your community and county program. Learn about all the Unified Champion Schools (UCS) programs that are taking place near you.

#### **UNIFIED LEADERSHIP: A WINNING STRATEGY**

*Presenter: Ken Melvin, Maddison Glenn & Jillian Moss*

This session builds on the fourth guiding principle of athlete leadership, Unified Leadership. It is defined as: Building from sport, Unified Leadership teaches leaders without disabilities to value and learn from people with ID, to make changes and create environments where people with ID get opportunities to have meaningful jobs and roles.

Join this interactive session you to learn about the Unified Leadership approach, practice some Unified Leadership skills, and discuss ways to promote it within Special Olympics Indiana.

#### **GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS & BENEFITS**

*Presenter: Gordon Homes (Westpoint Financial)*

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

#### **AREA STRATEGIC PLANNING: PART 1 (Area team members plan to attend both sessions)**

*Presenters: Katie Lee & Scott Mingle*

While each of our area management teams are unique in their own special way. It's important that we come together as Area Leaders to develop our own purpose, goals, and expectations to prepare for the upcoming year. We are excited to welcome all members of our area management teams to attend to collaborate on our yearly goals, expectations, timelines, area structure, and more.

## **COACHES EDUCATION: OVERVIEW OF THE COACHES CERTIFICATION PROCESS**

*Presenters: Savannah Vaughn & Katie Lee*

Are you looking to taking your coaching to the next level? What is the coach's certification process? Did you even know that Special Olympics Indiana has a coach's certification program? How do you become a Team Indiana Coach? How do you become a USA Games?

Well... WE HAVE The ANSWERS FOR YOU! We will be going through our coach's certification process and how you can expand your knowledge as a coach to increase the quality of your sports programs! There are 3 levels of the coach education program, we will go in detail on how to get certified in each level so that you feel well equipped to coach your athletes on a local, state, and national level.

## **LIVING YOUR BEST LIFE: USING THE LIFECOURSE FRAMEWORK TO PLAN THE LIFE YOU WANT TO LIVE**

*Presenter: Karly Sciortino-Poulter (Arc of Indiana)*

Planning for the future can feel overwhelming. There are so many different facets to life. Many people don't know where to start. In this interactive session, participants will be encouraged to think about what they want and don't want in life. They will identify what skills they already have to help them achieve their good life and what skills they still need to develop. They will also identify what resources they already have available to them (including Special Olympics!), what resources they still need to develop, and how to use those resources and connections to help them live the life they want to live. We will also discuss the actions steps they can take to start implementing their plan and vision of a good life. Participants will take home the materials they've worked on in the session so they can continue to develop and revise the plan they develop.

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

*Speaker: Jeff Mohler*

*Co-EMCEE: Jeff Mohler and Athlete TBD*

We will recognize our Area and County leaders as well as some outstanding people as we present the 2022 *Spirit of Special Olympics Indiana* awards! CEO Jeff Mohler will share about SOIN new Strategic Plan and Project 17.

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

### **ERSKINE: SCHOOLS & COUNTY CONNECTIONS**

*Presenter: Mike Hasch and Tori Batson*

Discussion about how "The power of Sport" can be utilized to bring the schools and counties together. Sampling of the EPIC curriculum and how it can be used to benefit your community and county program. Learn about all the Unified Champion Schools (UCS) programs that are taking place near you.

### **ERSKINE: RECRUITING NEW ATHLETES & VOLUNTEERS**

*Presenter: Francie Smith, Julie Burkholder and Savannah Vaughn*

Learn how your county can use a screening of the Erskine documentary "The Best We've Got" to hit a home run recruiting new athletes and volunteers for your program. During this session we will discuss recruitment strategies using Carl Erskine's core values of acceptance, servant leadership and respectfulness.

## **ALU PROGRAM CERTIFICATION & REFRESHER**

*Presenters: Elesia Yoon, Jillian Moss and Ken Melvin*

Area and County Programs that seek to support athletes in developing leadership skills through Athlete Leadership University (ALU) are required to attend this certification session. We encourage all NEW ALU Coordinators to join us for this training. Already certified? If your leaders have not been to ALU in the last few years we encourage you to come and hear about what is new in ALU.

During this training you will learn about leadership roles available to athlete leaders, Athlete Leadership Councils (ALCs), ALU curriculum and requirements, and expectations for volunteers. The session provides tools and tips to get you started with an action plan for your county

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

*Presenter: Gordon Homes (Westpoint Financial)*

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

## **AREA STRATEGIC PLANNING: PART 2**

*Presenter: Katie Lee and Scott Mingle*

Our Awards to Zip Ties Handbook is designed to help train Area Management Team members on how to run a quality event. This handbook provides resources that help keep Special Olympics events consistent no matter which area one may be in. During this session will be diving into the competition guides for Basketball, Bowling, and Track and Field. We will go into detail on the standards that are specific for each sport. We will discuss everything from set up of track and field events to scoring for basketball skills to divisioning for bowling. We will also ask for feedback on what details need to be added into the Awards to Zip Ties Competition Guides for each sport.

## **A KICK START TO LEVEL 1 COACHES CERTIFICATION: IN PERSON COACHING SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETES COURSE PART 1**

*Presenter: Gary Cimaglia, Katie Lee & Savannah Vaughn*

To become a Level 1 Certified coach, one must be a Class A volunteer and complete the Coaching Special Olympics athletes and the Coaching Unified Sports Course. This session will be dedicated to part 1 of an In Person Coaching Special Olympics Athletes Course to mark off one of the criteria to getting Level 1 certified. Gary Cimaglia, Senior Manager of Coach & Sport Education at Special Olympics North America, will lead coaches in an overview of the key components that Special Olympics coaches need to know when training Special Olympics athletes.

## **INvestABLE INDIANA: UPDATES TO ABLE ACCOUNTS IN INDIANA**

*Presenter: Amy Corbin (Indiana ABLE Authority)*

ABLE accounts are an important financial planning tool that can help individuals with disabilities lead a more independent and empowered life. Indiana's ABLE savings plan, INvestABLE Indiana, not only offers tax-advantaged savings, but more importantly, the opportunity to save money without losing vital means-tested benefits such as SSI or Medicaid. 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 and more. You will also learn new and important state-specific updates to the program. Whether it be through supporting employment goals or aiding in transition and independent living goals, this presentation will help provide a clearer picture of how you or someone you know can use this impactful tool to achieve greater financial independence and plan for one's future.

## 2:40pm - 3:55pm      BREAKOUT SESSION #3

### **TREASURER TRAINING: SOUP TO NUTS**

*Presenters: Maureen Rumer and Karen Kennelly*

If you are a new treasurer, just want a refresher course, or have questions about any financial topic, join us! We will provide an overview of all areas including both the basics of depositing money and making expenditures as well as the more advanced topics including grants management, reporting, and county carry-over funds. (Open to Treasurers and County Coordinators ONLY)

### **ERSKINE: RECRUITING NEW ATHLETES & VOLUNTEERS**

*Presenter: Francie Smith, Julie Burkholder and Savannah Vaughn*

Learn how your county can use a screening of the Erskine documentary "The Best We've Got" to hit a home run recruiting new athletes and volunteers for your program. During this session we will discuss recruitment strategies using Carl Erskine's core values of acceptance, servant leadership and respectfulness.

### **ERSKINE: PLANNING THE HOW AND WHAT**

*Presenters: Buzz Lail and Mike Furnish*

This session will help your County or Area program take the first steps toward hosting a screening of the Erskine documentary to your hometown. The session will give you an opportunity to see all the resources available to make your event a success. You will learn how to promote, price, and implement a screening night to have the maximum impact in your community, and create a fun and memorable event.

If you've not already applied for a date, you will see of the Hometown screening webpage works.

You will leave with a toolkit full of resources, and an idea of what other Programs are planning to do as this film makes its way across Indiana in 2023.

### **UNIFIED FITNESS CLUBS 3.0**

*Presenter: Elesia Yoon and Itzel Graber*

New and revamp Unified Fitness Club 3.0. Come see the new improvements and how to start a Unified Fitness Club in your county. Whether you belong to a club already or are looking to get involved, come and learn about the latest updates. Anyone interested in helping to host Unified Fitness club in their county (athletes, unified partners, schools, caregivers, etc.)

### **SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST**

*Presenter: Gordon Homes (Westpoint Financial)*

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

### **GMS 101: ROOKIES!**

*Presenter: Cathy Elzinga & Scott Mingle*

This session will introduce Special Olympics' Games Management System (GMS) to rookies or those who need a refresher. Lead by Reuben Silva of SOI, attendees will walk away more confident in their abilities. Within SO Indiana's 2019-22 Strategic Plan, our goal is to have the 2021 Summer Games be paperless! All online registration!

### **A KICK START TO LEVEL 1 COACHES CERTIFICATION: IN PERSON COACHING SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETES COURSE PART 2**

*Presenter: Gary Cimaglia, Katie Lee & Savannah Vaughn*

To become a Level 1 Certified coach, one must be a Class A volunteer and complete the Coaching Special Olympics athletes and the Coaching Unified Sports Course. This session will be dedicated to part 2 of an In Person Coaching Special Olympics Athletes Course to mark off one of the criteria to getting Level 1 certified. Gary Cimaglia, Senior Manager of Coach & Sport Education at Special Olympics North America, will lead coaches in an overview of the key components that Special Olympics coaches need to know when training Special Olympics athletes.

## **HEALTH INSURANCE & MEDICAID WAIVERS**

*Presenter: Christine Hennessy & Susan Jo Thomas (Covering Kids & Families of Indiana, Indiana Family to Family)*

The session will begin with a **plain language** account of Health Care Coverage and Insurance and will emphasize the options available through State and Federal programs. After the broad stroke description of these options, we will dive into **Indiana Medicaid Waivers**. Attendees will learn what a Waiver is, who a Waiver serves, the application process and what to expect along the way. This session will provide a review of both the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services and the Area Agency on Aging waiver programs.

**4pm-5:15pm**

## **BREAKOUT SESSION #4**

### **VMS: ROOKIES & ALLSTARS!**

*Presenter: Kevin Aders*

Whether you are a seasoned Volunteer Coordinator or newly assigned to this role for your County or Area this training is for you. Join us as we will show you all the details of how to access all your information in the new Volunteer Management System (VMS) and provide you the tools to understand the system and how to utilize it to benefit your program and to work smarter not harder with your volunteers.

### **ERSKINE: PLANNING THE HOW AND WHAT**

*Presenters: Buzz Lail and Mike Furnish*

This session will help your County or Area program take the first steps toward hosting a screening of the Erskine documentary to your hometown. The session will give you an opportunity to see all the resources available to make your event a success. You will learn how to promote, price, and implement a screening night to have the maximum impact in your community, and create a fun and memorable event.

If you've not already applied for a date, you will see of the Hometown screening webpage works.

You will leave with a toolkit full of resources, and an idea of what other Programs are planning to do as this film makes its way across Indiana in 2023.

### **ERSKINE: FUNDRAISING & NEW DONORS**

*Presenters: Scott Furnish, Kelly Ries, and Stephanie Manner*

Join us for a collaborative discussion on ways to incorporate fundraising initiatives for your County Programs around the Erskine EPIC film premiers.

As we brainstorm and discuss tactics to generate revenue around the EPIC project to cultivate relationships with key stakeholders in your local program.

This session will afford program teams the opportunity to devise a plan for successful fundraising events around the Erskine premier project.

### **STRONG MINDS**

*Presenter: Jillian Moss*

Come learn about a Healthy Athlete discipline we don't have yet in Indiana called Strong Minds. Strong Minds is an interactive learning activity focused on developing adaptive coping skills. Competition provides a natural opportunity to develop active strategies for maintaining emotional wellness under stress, such as: thinking positive thoughts, releasing stress, and connecting with others. During Strong Minds, you will learn strategies that will benefit greatly if you can incorporate these strategies into practice and games.

## **PLANNING FOR YOUR LOVED ONES FUTURE: SPECIAL NEEDS WILLS, TRUST AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

*Presenter: Liz Homes (Elizabeth Homes, Attorney at law)*

Do you have a current plan in place? Do you have questions about what plan might be best to put in place? Do you have a Will? Do you have a Special Needs Trust? If so, great! Have you reviewed them? Never heard of a Special Needs Trust?!?! Great! Come and learn more about Special Needs Estate Planning to make sure that you have the right plan in place for yourself and your loved one with special needs.

Is your loved one with special needs becoming an adult soon?!?! Exciting! Are they ready to be an adult? Have you consider making sure they have power of attorney documents or a Guardianship, if needed, in place? Come learn more and ask questions. Join in the fun! Always learning to help others!

## **GMS 201: ROOKIES & ALLSTARS**

*Presenters: Scott Mingle & Cathy Elzinga*

This session will take a deeper dive into Special Olympics' Games Management System. For rookies, we recommend taking GMS 101 prior to attending this session.

## **A KICK START TO LEVEL 1 COACHES CERTIFICATION: IN PERSON COACHING SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETES COURSE PART 3**

*Presenter: Gary Cimaglia, Katie Lee & Savannah Vaughn*

To become a Level 1 Certified coach, one must be a Class A volunteer and complete the Coaching Special Olympics athletes and the Coaching Unified Sports Course. This session will be dedicated to part 3 of an In Person Coaching Special Olympics Athletes Course to mark off one of the criteria to getting Level 1 certified. Gary Cimaglia, Senior Manager of Coach & Sport Education at Special Olympics North America, will lead coaches in an overview of the key components that Special Olympics coaches need to know when training Special Olympics athletes.

## **GROWING YOUR PROGRAM: WHO ARE YOUR FUTURE ATHLETES?**

*Presenter: Elesia Yoon*

Engaging new athletes is an essential step in growing our program. It is a task with many possible ideas and solutions. So where do we start? Did you know that 68% of SOIN athletes are men? In this session, we will share ideas and co-create strategies for recruiting and engaging more women athletes.