



SOCT Local Programs and public school groups that participate in a Penguin Plunge event to benefit Special Olympics Connecticut are eligible to receive up to 50% of all team funds raised, to a maximum of \$5,000. This includes, but is not limited to Unified Sports® Teams, athletic teams, band, drama, and other recognized student groups and organizations.

All groups wishing to participate in this fundraising opportunity must comply with the following:

- **All team members must pre-register online** as part of their Team for their fundraising totals to be included. Reach out to your SOCT contact if you need help adding a registered individual onto a team.
 - Funds raised by Plungers who register the day of the event will not count towards your 50% split but may be used for your overall total towards event awards and prizes.
- Each team member must raise a minimum of \$100.
- Funds may be raised online through the Penguin Plunge website, or offline via checks and cash. Please bring all offline donations with you the day of the plunge.
- All funds must be turned in no later than 30 days after the event to be included in the 50% split.
 - Matching gift or volunteer grant donations received after 30 days will be included in the 50% split only if the appropriate forms are submitted at or prior to the Plunge.
- Please make sure your school group is easily identified in your team name. If it is not, please make sure to contact the appropriate SOCT event staff with your team name, the group you are representing and your school.
- In addition to the above, a Team Captain will provide the following information to SOCT event staff:
 - School faculty/Coach contact information
 - School fund check is to be made out to and mailing address. **Checks may not be issued to individuals.**

SOCT will provide a list of team members and fundraising totals within 14 days of the event to the Team Captain/Coach. The Team Captain/Coach will have 7 days to review the information and respond to SOCT with any questions. Within 60 days of fundraising totals being confirmed, a check will be mailed to the provided address and account.

* Schools that have participated in a Penguin Plunge prior to 2012 may not be eligible to receive 50% of their fundraising total. Please contact your SOCT Plunge representative to discuss other options.

Penguin Plunge Location	SOCT Contact	Email
022/24/24 Middletown	Jackie Turro	jackiet@soct.org
03/03/24 Shoreline (Groton)	Jackie Turro	jackiet@soct.org
03/23/24 Brookfield	Lisa Carlone	lisac@soct.org
03/30/24 Tolland	Lisa Carlone	lisac@soct.org
04/06/24 Monroe	Amy Zdanowski	amyz@soct.org
04/06/24 Fairfield	Lisa Carlone	lisac@soct.org
11/24/24 Westbrook (LETR Super Plunge)	Amy Zdanowski	amyz@soct.org



Does everyone on our Plunge team need to be a part of our Local Program/Unified Sports® team or club?

No. Anyone can fundraise and participate in a Plunge on behalf of your Local Program/Unified Sports® Team or other school group. However people who have previously participated in a Plunge may not be eligible to have 50% of their fundraising totals go back to your school. Please contact your local SOCT representative for more information.

I'm under 18, can I still plunge?

Yes. The minimum age to participate is 8 years old. All Penguin Plunge participants must sign a waiver, and participants under 18 years old must have a parent or guardian sign a waiver as well. You can download a waiver from your Participant Center.

Can I recruit more team members the day of the Penguin Plunge?

In order to properly manage this fundraising program, all groups taking part in this collaborative fundraising opportunity must be completely pre-registered online. Online registration closes on Friday at 12pm before your Plunge. On-site registration is available for participants whose pledges will not be split with your school group. Their pledges will count towards your team total for any awards categories the day of the event.

Can I win anything?

Awards are given for the top fundraisers in several categories and for the best costume! Check your Penguin Plunge website for a complete listing of awards and prizes.

Does all of our fundraising have to be done online?

No. We encourage you to collect cash and checks to supplement your online fundraising efforts. Checks must be made out to Special Olympics Connecticut. You will turn in any cash and checks at your Plunge and it will be added to your fundraising total.

My school has been participating in the Penguin Plunge for years, but we want to take part in this collaborative fundraising program. Are we eligible to use this as a fundraiser?

The Penguin Plunge is one of SOCT's largest fundraisers, and we count on those funds to support our year-round programming. The goal of this program is to recruit new "Penguins", while helping Unified Sports® programs and other school groups become financially self-sustaining. By recruiting people who have **never** participated in the Penguin Plunge before you can still earn 50% of your fundraising totals for your team. If they are not new Penguins, you may still be eligible to receive some funding. Please contact your local SOCT representative for more information.

How do we know how much money we have raised?

Track your fundraising online using your Penguin Plunge fundraising page. Within two weeks of the Penguin Plunge, an SOCT representative will contact your Team Captain with official totals for each team member, and what your 50% split will be. Once this amount is confirmed, a check will be mailed to the appropriate school fund within 60 days.

How much money can I raise?

You can raise as much as money as you want! SOCT will split up to \$10,000 with each approved school group, so the maximum your schools will receive is \$5,000. Keep in mind that all the funds you raise support the Special Olympics movement. All plungers must raise a minimum of \$100 to participate in the Penguin Plunge.

What if another group from my school wants to participate in the Penguin Plunge?

Schools may have several Plunge teams. Contact your SOCT event representative to determine if your group is eligible to participate in the collaborative fundraising program.

Does the Team Captain need to be a coach, teacher, or other adult?

No, anyone can be a Team Captain. Team Captains are responsible for communicating with SOCT representatives and ensuring all team members are registered online prior to the Plunge. SOCT will need contact info of an adult at your school prior to mailing checks.

Where does the money that isn't used for my Local Program/Unified Sports® program go?

SOCT provides year-round sports training and competition to over 12,000 athletes across the state, including the Unified Sports® Program through the Connecticut Association of Schools. Funds from the Penguin Plunge are used to support these programs.