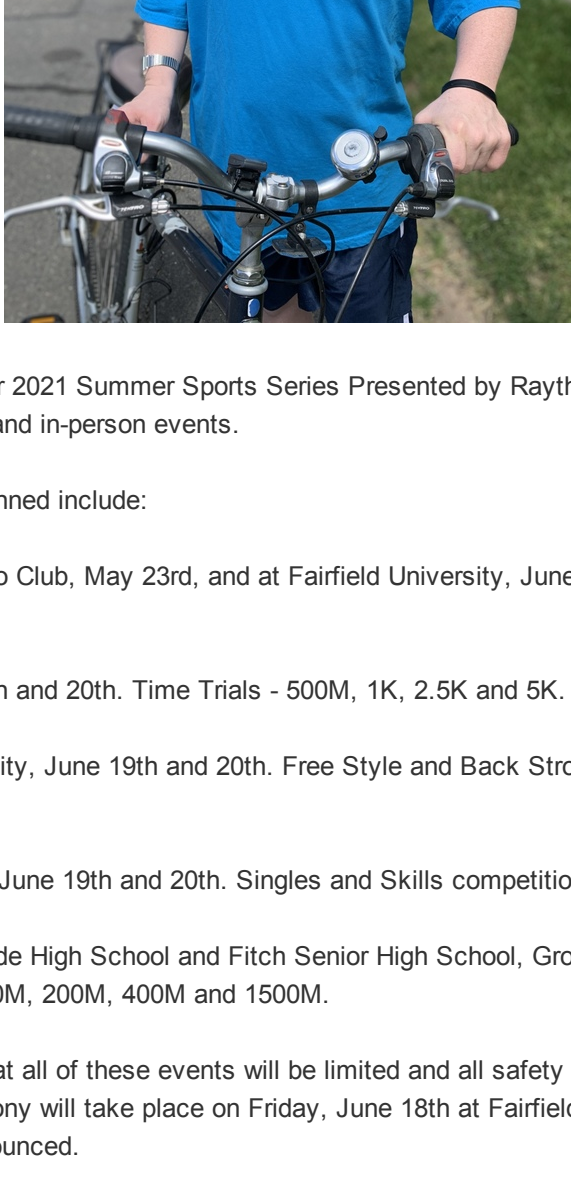


MAY NEWSLETTER

Summer Sports Series Presented by Raytheon Technologies Announced!



We're excited to announce our 2021 Summer Sports Series Presented by Raytheon Technologies which will feature both virtual activities and in-person events.

In-person events that are planned include:

Soccer at the Farmington Polo Club, May 23rd, and at Fairfield University, June 19th and 20th. All-Stars Skills Challenge.

Cycling in Cheshire, June 19th and 20th. Time Trials - 500M, 1K, 2.5K and 5K.

Swimming at Fairfield University, June 19th and 20th. Free Style and Back Stroke - 25M, 25M Development, 50M and 100M.

Tennis at Fairfield University, June 19th and 20th. Singles and Skills competition.

Track & Field at Fairfield Warde High School and Fitch Senior High School, Groton. Softball Throw, Long Jump and Walk/Run 50M, 100M, 200M, 400M and 1500M.

Participation and attendance at all of these events will be limited and all safety and health guidelines will be enforced. An Opening Ceremony will take place on Friday, June 18th at Fairfield University and be live streamed at a time to be announced.

Athletes are also encouraged to participate in the following Summer Sports Series virtual activities - Athletics: 10M, 50M, 100M, 200M and 1500M Walk, Run or Roll (wheelchair), Standing Long Jump and Ball Throw; Corn Hole; Cycling: 100M, 200M and Slalom Ride; Soccer: Run, Kick and Score and Dribble and Tennis: Ball Bounce.

Athletes can register, review instructions for completing the activities and submit photos and videos of activities [here](#).

A virtual athlete Victory Dance will be held in the SOCT Zoom Room on Saturday, June 19th.


Be sure to follow Special Olympics CT on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#) to see all of our athletes' "return to play" action!

Summer Sports Series Sponsors include:

Special Olympics Connecticut


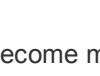
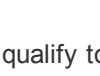
Summer Sports Series



Presented by:






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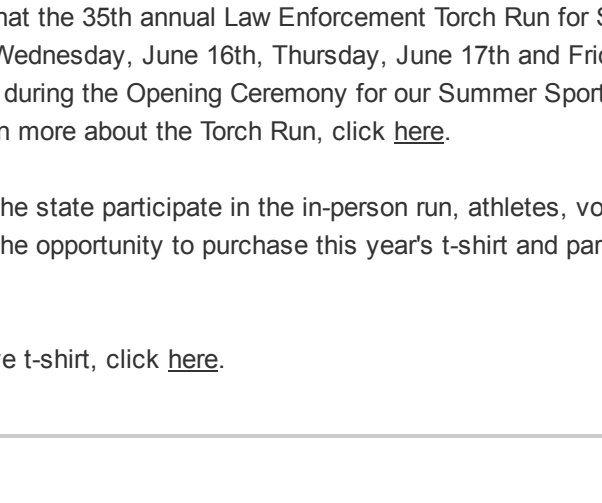


Media Sponsors





Champions Challenge 5K Registration Open Now through June 20th



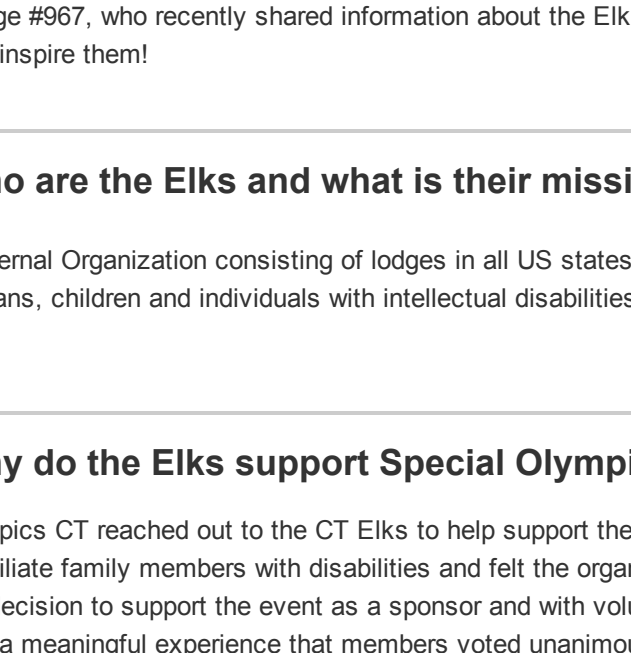
The Champions Challenge 5K is a virtual run / walk event to support Special Olympics CT athletes participating in our Summer Sports Series and celebrate the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Connecticut on its 35th anniversary.

All registered participants who complete the 5K run / walk now through June 20th (coinciding with the end of our Summer Sports Series weekend), will receive a medal and t-shirt. The registration fee is \$25. To sign up or donate to support the Champions Challenge 5K, click [here](#).

Special Olympics CT athletes who complete this 5K will also qualify to become members of our NEW 1500 Meter Club! The purpose of the Club is to build our athletes' endurance and enhance their fitness. For more information, click [here](#).

Sponsors include Raytheon Technologies, IGA and Adams Hometown Markets, Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield, Alexion, Comcast, NBC Connecticut, Bearingstar Insurance, Papa's Dodge, Henkel, Knights of Columbus, NBC Sports, PwC, Starwood Realty Trust, Sikorsky, Synchrony Financial, TD Bank, The Hometown Foundation, WWE and the Whelen Engineering Company, Inc.

35th Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run Set for June 16-18

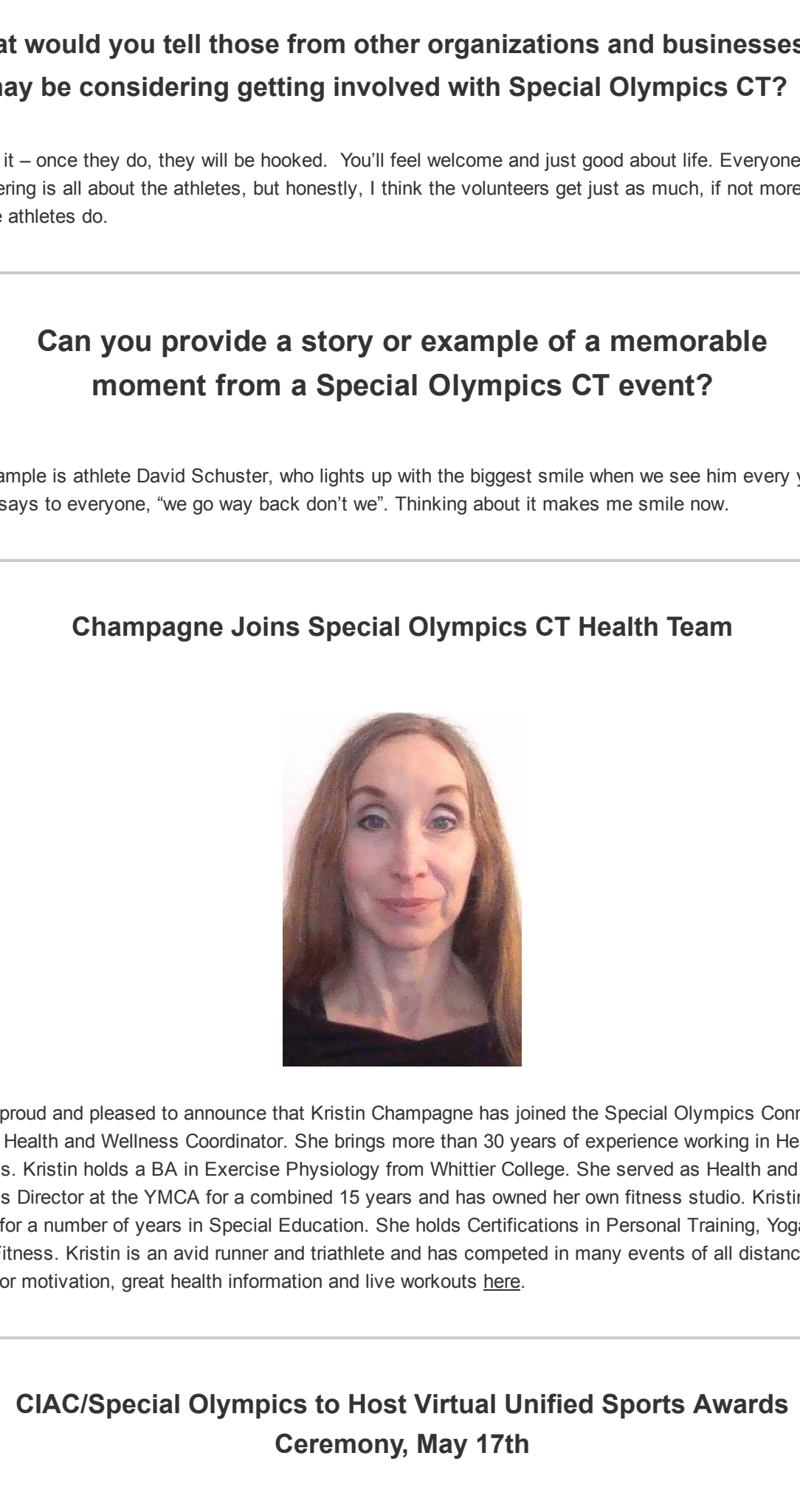


We're excited to announce that the 35th annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Connecticut will take place Wednesday, June 16th, Thursday, June 17th and Friday, June 18th, culminating with the traditional Final Leg during the Opening Ceremony for our Summer Sports Series at Fairfield University on Friday. To learn more about the Torch Run, click [here](#).

While officers from across the state participate in the in-person run, athletes, volunteers and all friends of Special Olympics will have the opportunity to purchase this year's t-shirt and participate in our Virtual Champions Challenge 5K!

To order your commemorative t-shirt, click [here](#).

Sponsor Spotlight: The Connecticut Elks Association



Members of the Connecticut Elks Association have supported Special Olympics Connecticut for more than 21 years and have contributed over \$400,000 to support our athletes in a myriad of ways. Activities include sponsoring our annual Unified Sports Holiday Classic (at the Presenting Sponsor level), volunteering at our Holiday Classic volleyball and Summer Games soccer venues, hosting the Law Enforcement Torch Run Super Plunge and supporting our Over the Edge fundraiser.

We wanted to learn more about this wonderful organization and why they've remained a partner to us for more than two decades! Our most sincere thanks to John Simko, Chairman of PR/Communications for the Connecticut Elks Association and a member of Derby Lodge #571 and Terry Ford, CEA Past President and member of Naugatuck Lodge #967, who recently shared information about the Elks organization and how Special Olympics athletes inspire them!

Who are the Elks and what is their mission?

The Elks is a National Fraternal Organization consisting of lodges in all US states and their territories that focuses on assisting veterans, children and individuals with intellectual disabilities and promoting drug awareness.

Why do the Elks support Special Olympics?

Back in 2000, Special Olympics CT reached out to the CT Elks to help support the Holiday Sports event. Many members had children or affiliate family members with disabilities and felt the organization was worthy of their support, so they made the decision to support the event as a sponsor and with volunteers. The rest is history, their involvement was such a meaningful experience that members voted unanimously to support SOCT going forward. The excitement and determination of the athletes was truly inspirational. People were so touched by their experience that they brought family and friends back with them in following years. This has now become a tradition for many. In addition, the partnership has become a new member acquisition tool letting potential new Elk's members know what they can expect to be a part of.

How do the Elks raise funds?

Local Elks lodges and members donate to the Elks National Foundation (ENF), an interest-bearing account that combines all funds received and then distributes them back in the form of grants and donations to the states and lodges for allocation to designated projects they support. Fundraisers are also conducted by each individual lodge to support those projects which include bowling tournaments, golf events, dinners, and Penguin Plunges.

What is the most rewarding part of being involved with Special Olympics?

It is extremely fulfilling to see the smiles on the athletes faces as well as interacting with them and getting to know them on a personal level. Love that Special Olympics CT is not all about winning but more about being included and involved and being recognized for what you can do, not what you can't. "It's a happy place where the world stands still and everyone leaves with a smile on their face."

What would you tell those from other organizations and businesses who may be considering getting involved with Special Olympics CT?

Just try it – once they do, they will be hooked. You'll feel welcome and just good about life. Everyone thinks volunteering is all about the athletes, but honestly, I think the volunteers get just as much, if not more from it, than the athletes do.

Can you provide a story or example of a memorable moment from a Special Olympics CT event?

One example is athlete David Schuster, who lights up with the biggest smile when we see him every year and always says to everyone, "we go way back don't we". Thinking about it makes me smile now.

Champagne Joins Special Olympics CT Health Team






We are proud and pleased to announce that Kristin Champagne has joined the Special Olympics Connecticut staff as Health and Wellness Coordinator. She brings more than 30 years of experience working in Health and Wellness. Kristin holds a BA in Exercise Physiology from Whittier College. She served as Health and Wellness Director at the YMCA for a combined 15 years and has owned her own fitness studio. Kristin also worked for a number of years in Special Education. She holds Certifications in Personal Training, Yoga and Group Fitness. Kristin is an avid runner and triathlete and has competed in many events of all distances. Join Kristin for motivation, great health information and live workouts [here](#).




CIAC/Special Olympics to Host Virtual Unified Sports Awards Ceremony, May 17th



The Annual Special Olympics Unified Sports Awards Ceremony Presented by ESPN will take place, virtually, on Monday, May 17th at 7 p.m. During the event, outstanding student athletes, coaches and schools creating inclusion on and off the playing field through their involvement in Unified Sports will be honored. For more information, email [specialolympicsct@soci.org](mailto:specialolympicsct@soci.org).

Special Olympics Unified Sports® in schools is made possible through Special Olympics Connecticut's partnership with the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC). Sponsors include:





Mike & Jamie Goguen

Penguin Plunge Season Recap

Upcoming Zoom Room Events for Athletes

Brought to you by:



Bingo - Tuesday, May 18th, 6 p.m. Register [here](#).

Dance - Thursday, May 27th, 6:30 p.m. Register [here](#).

Cooking Class - Thursday, June 3rd, 7 p.m. Register [here](#).

Summer Sports Series Victory Dance - Saturday, June 19th, 6:30 p.m. Register [here](#).

Athletes must register in advance for all activities.

Become a Member of our Champion's Society - It's Easy to Plan for the Future with These Free Resources

If you're like many people, creating or updating your will or trust and other important documents often falls to the bottom of your to do list. We have made it easy for you to get started today with free publications to help you get organized and complete your plans while gaining peace of mind: <https://solegacygiving.org/resources/>.

Save money, Help the Environment, and Support Special Olympics with Trinity Solar!



With sunny summer days ahead, if you've been considering converting to solar energy or just want to learn more, now is the perfect time to explore how you can save money on your utility bill, positively impact the environment and sport Special Olympics athletes.

Trinity Solar has partnered with Special Olympics CT and generously offered to donate \$100 for every qualified appointment and \$1,000 for every solar install when the job is complete, with no cost or obligation on your part.

If you would like to learn more, or schedule an appointment, please call our friend Lori Scala from Trinity Solar at (203) 895-8968 or click [here](#).

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We welcome your feedback and contributions. Contact us at 203-230-1201 or [specialolympicsct@soci.org](mailto:specialolympicsct@soci.org).

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