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PRESS RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE CITY OF ST. CHARLES

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St. Charles Police, Fire departments join forces for annual Polar Plunge fundraiser March 9 *Ferson Creek Park event to benefit Special Olympics Illinois*

ST. CHARLES, ILL. (Feb. 3, 2025) – The St. Charles Police and Fire departments' annual [Polar Plunge](#) returns to Ferson Creek Park on March 9, 2025. During the event, brave participants will take a chilly dip into icy waters to raise funds for Special Olympics Illinois programs and events.

The event kicks off at 10 a.m., when members of the St. Charles Police and Fire Departments, along with their families and friends, will plunge into the Fox River at Ferson Creek Park, located off Route 31, east of Wildrose Springs Drive in St. Charles.

All proceeds from the event will directly benefit Special Olympics Illinois, supporting year-round sports training and athletic competition for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Last year, the Polar Plunge raised \$17,415.69, contributing significantly to the total \$28,168.01 raised for 2024 (as of November).

St. Charles Police Detective Jennifer Larsen, Officer Steve Mattas, Firefighter Paramedic Steve Siwy, and Administrative Assistant Sara Cass are among the dedicated organizers working to make the event a success.

"We are incredibly grateful to the St. Charles community for its continued support of Special Olympics Illinois," said Larsen, who also serves as the team liaison to the nonprofit. "This is a fun event that promotes inclusion and raises awareness, while playing a vital role in supporting more than 20,000 adult and youth athletes in Illinois."

The fundraising event is open to the public. Community members are welcome to show their support by cheering on participants during the event. To support the St. Charles Polar Plunge team, visit the St. Charles Police, Fire and Friends Polar Plunge page at support.soill.org, or [form your own team](#). There is a minimum of \$100 to participate. All attendees are strongly encouraged to carpool to Ferson Creek Park as parking will be limited.

Other upcoming law enforcement events to benefit Special Olympics Illinois, include:



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- "Cool School Challenge" polar plunge for District 303 high school students and their families at 3:30 p.m. Feb. 12 at St. Charles East High School;
- Cop on Rooftop in May (date TBD); and
- Battle of the Badges Softball tournament on Aug. 16.

For more information about Special Olympics Illinois, visit soill.org.

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About the City of St. Charles

The City of St. Charles, Illinois, is guided by the three driving principles in its Mission: *Service. Tradition. Community.* Together, these principles create a thriving environment for people who live or visit here, and for businesses to prosper. Our City has gained national recognition as a family-friendly town and wide acclaim for its architecture, living up to its nickname *Pride of the Fox*. Conveniently located 35 miles west of Chicago, in Kane and northwestern DuPage counties, St. Charles is home to 33,000 residents and a balanced mix of more than 2,000 businesses that employ approximately 28,700 people. More at stcharlesil.gov, and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and [LinkedIn](#).