



Special Olympics
New Jersey

PRESS RELEASE

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Third Annual Polar Bear Plunge in Wildwood Makes Waves of Excitement for Special Olympics New Jersey

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Wildwood, NJ - With temperatures below freezing, and ice on the beach, close to 500 residents from eight states gathered at the Wildwoods Convention Center to brave the icy Atlantic Ocean on Saturday, January 17, to benefit more than 17,000 athletes of Special Olympics New Jersey in the Third Annual Polar Bear Plunge - Wildwood.

From 5-years to 71, thrillseekers of all ages joined in the excitement of a Plunge with costumes and cameras clicking. Featured was the wit and fun of WOGL 98.1 Breakfast Club members Frank Lewis and Bill Zimpfer, who acted as the day's Emcees. This year, Lewis and Zimpfer dove into the event with an on-air fundraising campaign that culminated in taking the Plunge themselves.

Two Special Olympics New Jersey Floor Hockey Teams played an exhibition game for the cheering crowd. New Jersey members of Special Olympics Team USA played against Team Hero, representing the Arc of Mercer County. Next stop for Team USA will be Boise, Idaho where they will compete in the Special Olympics World Winter Games on February 6-13.

According to Andrew Johnson, Director of Law Enforcement Sponsorship at Special Olympics New Jersey, the event was deemed a great success. "To conduct an event as unusual as a Plunge takes great organization, a focused team and loyal manpower. We feel we had all of these pieces in place which resulted in a very smooth event," Johnson said. "We're very grateful to everyone who participated as the on-site team, volunteers and those who actually took the Plunge for our athletes."

Sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Police and hosted by The Wildwoods Convention Center, the event included participation from the Wildwood Fireboat, State Police, Middle Township Dive Team, U.S. Coast Guard and local EMTs. The Polar Bear Plunge Wildwood is among the growing menu of fundraising events offered by the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics New Jersey.

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For additional information on the Polar Bear Plunge - Wildwood, or on the Polar Bear Plunge - Seaside Heights on February 28, please visit www.NJPolarPlunge.org. For information on Special Olympics New Jersey visit www.sonj.org.

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Special Olympics New Jersey provides year-round sports training and Olympic-type competition in 23 sports for more than 17,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities or other closely related developmental disabilities.