

2022 Unified Champion City Schools Summit

August 4-7, 2022 - Detroit, MI

Event Summary for Prospective Attendees

Overview:

The Unified Champion City Schools (UCCS) initiative is a top priority for the Special Olympics North America (SONA) Region. The main goal of this initiative is accelerating growth in the number of schools partnering with Special Olympics in city school districts. To advance this goal, the first ever UCCS Summit will be held alongside the [2022 Special Olympics Unified Cup](#) in Detroit. The Unified Cup is a global soccer tournament featuring Unified Sports teams representing countries around the world.

The summit will bring together youth, educators, administrators, community partners, and Special Olympics staff for three days of learning, relationship building and experiential activities at the Unified Cup. The summit will strive to engage participants representing all 28 Unified Champion City School sites around the country.

Note: Summit attendees will not be competing in the soccer tournament

Participants can expect to leave with:

1. A stronger connection to the broader work taking place with UCCS around the country and a new set of peer connections.
2. A deeper understanding of Unified Champion Schools and practical implementation strategies to help advance the work within their school and district.
3. A more global perspective of Special Olympics through interactions with the overall Unified Cup.
4. A vision for how youth can continue their involvement with Special Olympics after high school.

Format:

The content of the summit will include a combination of general sessions, intergenerational cross-over sessions, and audience-specific workshops. One workshop track will be for UCCS youth and mentors, and the other track will be for UCCS thought leaders. Additionally, all attendees will be given opportunities to attend Unified Cup competitions and events.

Participants:

- Each State Special Olympics Program that is participating in UCCS during the 2021-22 school year will be permitted to send the following delegation from each city:
 - Unified student pair from the UCCS school district (two students- 1 youth with an intellectual or developmental disability (IDD) and 1 youth without IDD)
 - One adult mentor from the UCCS school district or community to support the Unified student pair
 - One thought leader from the UCCS school district or community
 - The Program staff person responsible for implementing UCCS in each city
 - Optional: An experienced Program staff person responsible for state-wide UCS programming

Pre-event Activation:

Unified pairs & adult mentors are expected to be engaged prior to the Summit in the following ways:

- Participation in educational webinars (starting in June 2022)
- Social media and/or storytelling engagement leading up to Unified Cup

Registration Timeline:

- February 15: Registration opens
- April 15: Registration closes

Tentative Schedule:

Thursday, August 4, 2022

- Arrivals
- Volunteer/observe at youth soccer events

Friday, August 5, 2022

- Intergenerational Kick-off Session
 - Opening keynote
 - Networking & icebreakers
- Session & Workshop Day
 - Developing/growing leadership skills
 - Advocacy cross-over
 - Strategy input cross-over
 - Project development
- Tentative: Unified Cup night @ Detroit Tigers Game

Saturday, August 6, 2022

- Closing Session & Breakfast
 - Closing keynote
 - Summary of outcomes
- Fans in the Stands for Final Matches & Awards
- Early departures – evening flights

Sunday, August 7, 2022

- Departures

Preliminary Content Areas:

1. *Developing/growing leadership skills*
 - *Identifying strengths and leadership styles*
 - *How to use leadership in their communities (potential project planning)*
 - *Networking*
2. *Strategy input*
 - *Evaluate and contribute to developing UCCS strategic points*
 - *Intergenerational solution-teaming*
3. *Advocacy*
 - *Increase knowledge of UCS/UCCS*
 - *How to advocate to other stakeholders/colleagues/community/education community*
 - *Social media/messaging*
 - *Intergenerational leadership and supporting the youth voice*
 - *Developing community partnerships*