



EAST VS WEST

Special Olympics Washington Hosts the 2022 Polar Plunge

Washington's coolest winter tradition is back, bringing together supporters for a friendly East vs. West competition to raise funds for Special Olympics athletes across the state

February 1, 2022– SEATTLE – The Special Olympics Washington Polar Plunge (PolarPlungeWA.com), taking place on February 26, is an annual fundraising event dating back to 2004. This event brings together supporters from all over the state to get cold for a cause: championing the more than 19,500 Special Olympics athletes in our communities.

After a 2021 season that saw the large gathering replaced with a virtual event, [in-person Polar Plunges](#) are making a triumphant return in 2022. To celebrate, the organization will be hosting a spirited East vs. West competition to see which side of the state can raise the most funds. Proceeds from the event will go directly towards providing Special Olympics Washington athletes the opportunity to train and compete year-round at no cost to them.

To mark the culmination of another successful season, participants are invited to come together and celebrate with one final in-person splash on Saturday, February 26, at either Alki Beach in Seattle or Columbia Point Marina Park in the Tri-Cities.

This year, Plungers have a new fundraising trick up their sleeves: the Polar Pop. After registering at PolarPlungeWA.com, individuals can encourage friends, family, and colleagues to “Send a Splash” by donating to their personal fundraising page. For every donation received, participants will record a Polar Pop video where they thank their donor before drenching themselves with a water balloon.

Participants are encouraged to get creative with their Polar Pops and upload their best videos at PolarPlungeWA.com for a chance to win prizes for Best Costume, Biggest Splash, and more! In addition, the top individual fundraiser will win a trip for two to the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games in Orlando, complete with airfare, hotel, Disney World park passes, and more.

“After an especially challenging time for our community, we are thrilled to welcome participants back to the water for the in-person 2022 Polar Plunge,” said David Wu, president and CEO of Special Olympics Washington. “The new Polar Pop feature is designed to put the ‘fun’ in fundraising and ensures that everyone has an opportunity to get cold for a cause this winter. We can’t wait to see the creative video submissions start rolling in!”

Follow Special Olympics Washington’s social media accounts ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#), [Twitter](#)) for updates on the competition between East and West to see who will claim the Polar Plunge 2022 fundraising crown.

The Polar Plunge is also supported by the Law Enforcement Torch Run Campaign for Special Olympics Washington. For more information on the 2022 Polar Plunge and to register, visit PolarPlungeWA.com.



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About Special Olympics Washington

Special Olympics Washington provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for more than 19,500 children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community. For more information, please visit SpecialOlympicsWashington.org.

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