

2021 WKY Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Kentucky

March 6

Ky Dam Village State Resort Park

COVID-19 CONSIDERATIONS

It is our every intention to hold the WKY Polar Plunge on March 6 in order to support Special Olympics athletes in Calloway and Marshall Counties as well as across the state. Please keep the following in mind as we work to finalize details of the event:

- The health, safety and security of participants, athletes, staff and volunteers must always be the most important factor.
 - Special Olympics Kentucky (SOKY) and its representatives from Calloway and Marshall Counties will continue to work with local Law Enforcement, Fire Department and Rescue Squads.
- Adherence to state and local restrictions and social distancing guidelines is required.
 - Consultations with local health department be take place throughout planning.

ADJUSTMENTS MADE TO EVENT OPERATIONS

- **No spectators:** Due to conditions required for events at KY Dam Village by the KY Department of Parks, **there will be no spectators allowed for the 2021 Western KY Polar Plunge and 5K.** Guardians of minors and SOKY athletes will be permitted to accompany registered participants.
- **Masks:** Masks will be required and are to be provided by participants upon arrival to the event space. Signage prompting the proper wearing of masks will be visibly posted in addition to announcements being made regarding the wearing of masks. All persons in the event space will be expected to wear masks for the duration of the event with the following exceptions: while actively running the 5K or when actively plunging into the waters (i.e., on the dock).
- **Opening Ceremonies:** Opening Ceremonies and Awards presentation will take place in the conference center – featured speakers only inside the conference center. At no time will the occupancy exceed 50% of the posted occupancy of the facility. Non-participants can view Opening Ceremonies via social media.
- **Registration and Check In:** Registration will be available on both Friday and Saturday. Depending on the number of registered participants, registration times may be extended and assigned in order to reduce the number of people in any one place and time. Teams and individual participants will check in for the event according to a staggered schedule. The check in process will be monitored by event staff to ensure that occupancy (i.e., participants and event volunteers) of the registration space will not exceed 50% of the posted maximum occupancy. Event staff will monitor entrance and waiting lines to ensure that individuals are adhering to the 6 feet social distancing requirement. Social distancing visual aids will also be present in the registration and check in area. Event check in hours will also be extended in order to allow adequate time for the aforementioned procedures to take place. Team captains will also be encouraged to register their entire team in another attempt to reduce the number of participants accessing the registration area.

- **5K:** 5K participants will be assigned to flights with each flight being assigned a specific start time. Runners will be staged in the parking lot according to flights and will be monitored to maintain the minimum 6 ft social distancing. Again, visual supports will be provided. Once runners complete the distance, there will be no designated area for congregating as there has been in the past. Rather, runners will cool down by walking down a designated “cool down” addition to the route until they reach the open green space near the Lodge. Following their “cool down” they will be required to wear masks again.
- **Polar Plunge:** Staging for the Polar Plunge will take place in the green space nearest the plunge site. The staging area will be set up in a manner to ensure social distancing (e.g., use of fencing, caution tape, visual aids to indicate 6 ft social distancing). Participants will wear masks unless on the dock. As always, there will be a drop station for personal belongings and as always, personal belongings will be numbered and placed in a basket until they are retrieved by the participant following their plunge. Individual changing tents for Polar Plunge participants will be available and will be sanitized between uses. There will be no designated spectator viewing area for the event. Event staff and volunteers will be circulating the event space and will disperse any gatherings of people not maintaining the appropriate distancing guidelines.

Please be patient and understanding as we work through these challenging times to create a fun, exciting, successful event supporting Special Olympics Kentucky.