

AUG 2026

The inside stories for you!

SHERIFFS, LAW ENFORCEMENT & MEMBERS NEWS & UPDATES

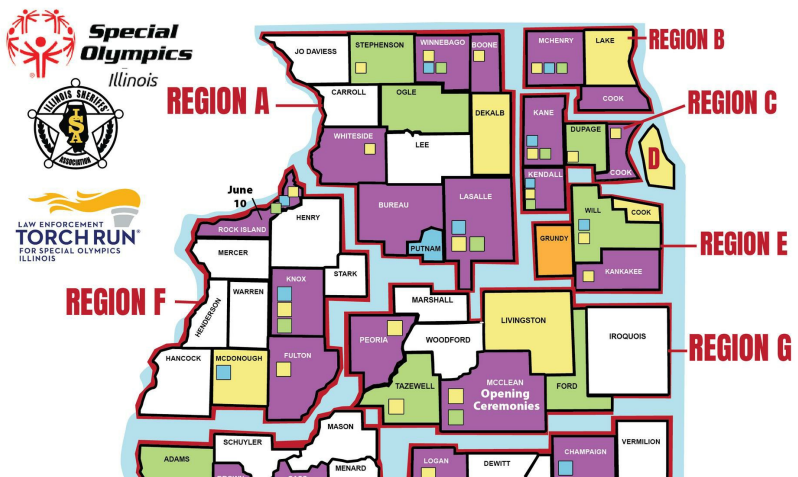


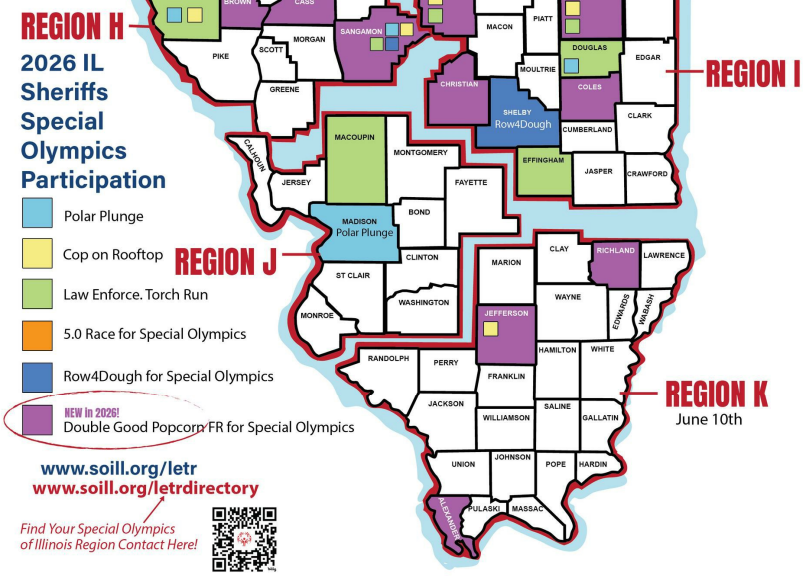
The Illinois Sheriffs' Association extends a sincere THANK YOU to everyone who supported our recent Double Good Popcorn Fundraiser. Thanks to the generosity of our members, supporters, friends, and families, we exceeded our fundraising goal!

Across the state, the ISA and participating Sheriff's Offices raised over **$7,900** for Special Olympics Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run. Your gift does more than fund programs, it transforms lives. It ensures athletes across Illinois can access the training, healthcare, and opportunities they deserve, at no cost to them or their families.

WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!!

THANK YOU TO ALL THE COUNTIES WHO PARTICIPATE IN FUNDRAISING FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS OF ILLINOIS!





To find out more about donating to Special Olympics of Illinois visit:
www.soill.org

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
NNO
2026
POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

2026 National Night Out Around Illinois

On the first Tuesday of August, communities across Illinois joined law enforcement agencies nationwide for National Night Out, a celebration focused on strengthening relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

Sheriff's offices across the state participated in events featuring everything from K-9 demonstrations and emergency vehicle displays to children's activities, food, games, and opportunities for residents to meet and visit with their local deputies.

National Night Out provides a valuable opportunity for deputies to connect with community members outside of an emergency setting, build trust, answer questions, and share important public safety resources.

The Illinois Sheriffs' Association thanks all of the Sheriff's offices, deputies, community partners, and volunteers who helped make this year's National Night Out events a success.

Check out some of the National Night Out events hosted by Illinois sheriff's offices below!







PEORIA COUNTY



DUPAGE COUNTY



OGLE COUNTY



KENDALL COUNTY



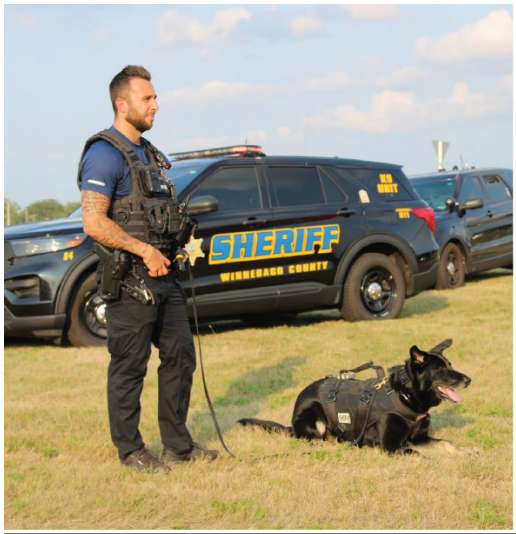




LAKE COUNTY



KANKAKEE COUNTY





WINNEBAGO COUNTY





MACON COUNTY

MACON COUNTY

Thanks to our Corporate ISA Membership Sponsors



There's still time to purchase your ISA K9 Heroes Plush featuring DuPage County Sheriff's Office K9 Xena, the 2026 Illinois Sheriffs' Association (ISA) K9 Hero, and her handler, Deputy Aaron Davis!

In 2024, the Illinois Sheriffs' Association launched its K9 Heroes Series to recognize an outstanding K9 team from across Illinois each year. As part of this special program, the ISA creates a personalized K9 plush in honor of the winning K9 team, with proceeds benefiting that agency's K9 program.







As Students Return, Let's Keep Safety First

From Jim Kaitschuk | Executive Director, Illinois Sheriffs' Association

As kids across Illinois head back to school this month, I keep thinking about how much of their safety depends on all of us working together. Sheriffs' offices, parents, teachers, bus drivers, neighbors, and everyday drivers each play a part. When we look out for one another, our communities become stronger and our children get to focus on learning instead of worrying about the journey there and back.

Here are a few practical reminders that can make a real difference this school year:

School Bus Safety: The most dangerous moments are usually not on the bus itself, they happen when kids are getting on or off. Talk with your children about these simple habits:

- Arrive at the bus stop a few minutes early and stand at least five giant steps (about 10 feet) back from the curb.
- Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop, the door opens, and the driver signals before approaching.
- Always cross in front of the bus, never behind it and make sure the driver can see you.
- Stay seated, face forward, and keep the aisle clear while riding.



Drivers, please remember: when those yellow lights flash, slow down and get ready to stop. When the red lights are flashing and the stop arm is out, stop completely and stay stopped until the lights go off and the bus starts moving again. In Illinois, this rule protects kids in both directions on most roads. A few extra seconds of patience can prevent a lifetime of regret.

School Zone Safety: Those 20 mph school zone signs are there for a reason. Children can appear suddenly from between parked cars, and they don't always look both ways the way we wish they would.

- Slow down, put the phone away, watch for crossing guards, and be ready to stop at any moment.
- If you're dropping off or picking up, follow the school's designated procedures and avoid double-parking. It keeps the flow moving and the sight lines clear for everyone.

Online Safety for Students and Parents: School isn't just in the classroom anymore. Devices, apps, and social media come along for the ride. A few conversations at home can go a long way:

- Talk openly about what is okay to share online and what should stay private (full name, school,

address, photos that show locations).
- Encourage kids to tell a trusted adult if anything online feels uncomfortable or wrong.
- Use privacy settings, strong unique passwords, and parental controls where it makes sense for your family.
- Remind them that people online are not always who they claim to be.

We're partners in this. Sheriffs' offices across Illinois work every day with schools, parents, and community groups because we know safety is a shared responsibility. When families, law enforcement, educators, and neighbors stay connected, kids have a better chance of getting to school safely, learning, and coming home ready to tell you about their day.

Thank you for everything you do to look out for the young people in your community. If you have questions or want to talk with your local Sheriff's office about school safety resources, we're here.

Let's make this a great and safe school year together.

2026/2027 ISA Conference & Training Schedule



Sheriffs Summer Training Conference
September 12-15, 2026
Embassy Suites, East Peoria

New Sheriffs Management Institute
November 15-19, 2026
President Abraham Lincoln Hotel, Springfield

Sheriffs Winter Training Conference
February 13-16, 2027
Embassy Suites, East Peoria

Visit Our Website

We would not be able to put our training and conferences on without our Preferred Vendors! The Illinois Sheriffs' Association would like to thank your vendors listed below!

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NEWS FROM IL AND AROUND THE COUNTRY





U.S. soldier's remains from Korean War returning home to Illinois after 75 years

By: Bryce West | 14news.com

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NEVER FORGOTTEN
Watch: Processional for U.S. Army Cpl. Jackie Lee Thurman



Illinois expands deputy sheriff hiring, toughens Scott's Law penalties
(will go into effect Jan. 1 2027)

Sarah Roebuck | Police1.com

READ MORE

Come support the newly formed Downstate Major Case Squad's annual 4-person scramble golf outing **September 5th, 2026** at the Salem Country Club!

Registration begins at 8:30am with a shotgun start at 10am. Food, games, and prizes included!
Sponsorship opportunities available as well.

Contact them at dmcsofil@gmail.com or (618)244-8004 ext 201 for questions or interest!

MORE INFORMATION





Illinois Sheriffs' Association Awards 50 Scholarships, Empowering Young Leaders to Build Stronger Communities

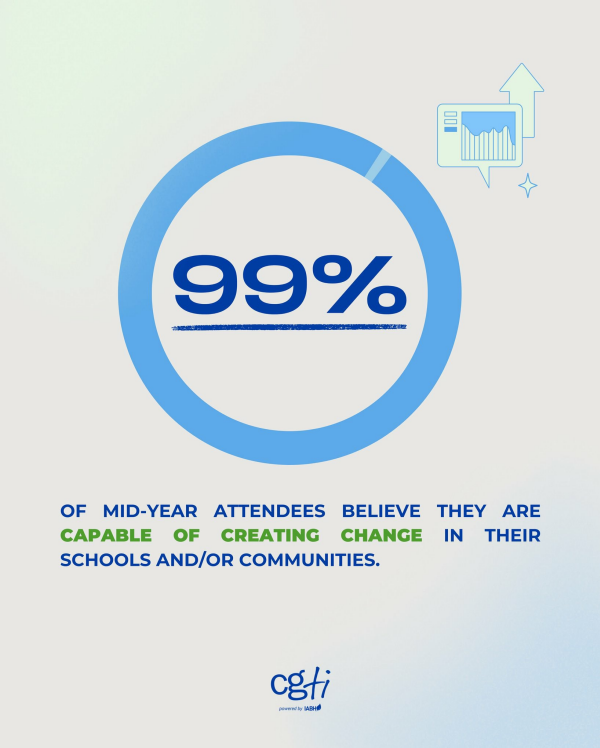
Fifty Illinois middle and high school students from communities across the state just returned from an intensive week of leadership training with a shared mission: to create lasting positive change in their schools and neighborhoods. Thanks to scholarships awarded by the Illinois Sheriffs' Association (ISA), these young people were able to fully participate in the 52nd annual Cebrin Goodman Teen Institute (CGTI), held July 12–16, 2026, at Eastern Illinois University.

CGTI, an award-winning youth leadership and prevention program sponsored by the Illinois Association for Behavioral Health (IABH), brings together more than 400 youth and adult

leaders each summer. Participants develop practical leadership skills, learn to make healthy choices, and collaborate on action plans designed to strengthen their home communities. This year's theme, "The Main Attraction," focused on what becomes possible when young people come together to dream big, grow their passions, and lead change.



"The Illinois Sheriffs' Association is proud to invest in the next generation of community leaders," said Jim Kaitschuk, Executive Director of the Illinois Sheriffs' Association. "These students are not just learning skills, they are building the relationships, confidence, and commitment that will make Illinois communities safer, healthier, and stronger for years to come. Supporting CGTI is one of the most direct ways we can help young people shape the future of the places they call home."





Throughout the week, scholarship recipients joined peers from across Illinois and beyond in keynote sessions and hands-on workshops covering authentic leadership, mental well-being, substance use prevention, emotional intelligence, effective communication, and community advocacy. They worked in discussion groups and action-planning teams to identify local

challenges and develop concrete plans they will implement during the 2026–2027 school year. Outside of sessions, students built lasting connections through team-building activities, a talent show, a celebration dance, and traditional closing moments that reinforce the power of community.

As a longtime Scholarship Sponsor, the Illinois Sheriffs' Association helps ensure that cost is not a barrier for motivated students who want to participate. For more than three decades, ISA has supported thousands of Illinois youth through CGTI scholarships, reflecting the Association's belief that investing in young leaders is essential to public safety and community well-being.

Students who attended CGTI are eligible for 22 volunteer/service hours and will reconvene at the Mid-Year 2027 event, scheduled for January 16–17, 2027, at the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Bloomington-Normal. There they will evaluate progress on their action plans, reconnect with peers, and continue their leadership development.

"CGTI remains incredibly grateful for ISA's continued partnership," said representatives from the Illinois Association for Behavioral Health. "By funding scholarships, ISA is helping create environments where young people feel empowered to use their voices, set meaningful goals, and drive real change in the communities they care about most."







For more information about the Cebrin Goodman Teen Institute and upcoming events, visit www.cg-ti.org.



Plan to LIKE, FOLLOW and SHARE posts from the ISA to help us spread the word about and educate others on public safety, policing and your rights that the ISA fights for!