



FLAGLER BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

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CHIEF MATTHEW P. DOUGHNEY

MEDIA RELEASE

January 13, 2018

4th Annual Polar Plunge for Special Olympics

On Saturday, February 3, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. the 4th Annual Polar Plunge will take place in Flagler Beach. Registration starts in Veterans Park at 9:00 a.m. and the actual "Plunge" into the Atlantic Ocean is set for 10:15 a.m. The purpose of the Polar Plunge is to bring together and unite community members toward the common goals of having fun while raising money for our local Special Olympics athletes.

"Special Olympics is near and dear to our hearts here at the Flagler Beach Police Department, as a member of our family is a Special Olympics athlete" said Flagler Beach Police Chief Matt Doughney. Doughney continued by saying "My Administrative Assistant Dee's son Joe is 14 years old and he competes in swimming, bowling and track events. Joe is absolutely incredible! When you first meet Joe he's an instant friend and helping Joe and other local athletes enjoy the spirit and competition of the Special Olympic is something we're committed to here at the Police Department".

The Polar Plunge has developed into a friendly team competition between participants over the past three (3) years. Teams dress in innovative, funny and sometimes outlandish costumes and prior to the actual plunge, teams compete for the "Best Dressed Team Costume" trophy. Last year the Flagler County Sheriff's Office took home the hardware dressed as "The Smurfs" and they beat the two (2) time defending champion Flagler Beach Fire Department. Chief Doughney concluded by saying "the Team costume competition is a blast and carries with it bragging rights for the entire year. We look forward to competing this year and want to proudly display that trophy in the front lobby of the Police Department for 2018. We're asking people to get involved in this year's event and support a fantastic cause".

Here's how you can get involved and show your support:

1. Grab some friends, family members or co-workers together and form your own team or just be a team of one (1) for the "plunge".

To register in advance please call Kim or Kerri at (386) 586-2655. Here's a link for more information: www.flaglersheriffspal.org

2. Come out to Veteran's Park on February 3rd and cheer on Joe and the 'Plungers' as they brave the cold water of the Atlantic Ocean!
3. Activities in Veterans Park will also include a hot chocolate bar, music by D.J. Vern, face painting and more!
4. For more information about Florida's Special Olympics please go to:
www.specialolympicsflorida.org

We hope to fill Veterans Park this year with "Plungers" and spectators alike and the goal is to help athletes like Joe fulfill their dreams. If you have any questions regarding this year's Polar Plunge, please feel free to contact Chief Doughney at (386) 517-2024



**Special
Olympics
Florida**



Joe participating in Track



Joe proudly displays his Gold Medal in 2016