

August 19th, 2025 In-Person SOC Meeting Summary

Our August meeting was a special in-person one because we were extremely fortunate to have Zach Gowen as our featured presenter. Zach is the only WWE wrestler to have ever been signed who is also an amputee. He lost his leg to cancer at the age of just eight years old. He overcame multiple hurdles to achieve his dream of being a professional wrestler after being told he was “crazy” and that it was “impossible.” Zach continues to wrestle to this day, but has taken on an even bigger role as a nationally recognized inspirational speaker for children and adults with disabilities or facing any challenge. His words this evening impacted every person, adult or child, in the audience. Zach’s message was clear, it’s not necessarily what happens to us in life, but how we respond to it. He used very personal examples of how he overcame so much, and further, how every person in the audience can do the same. The audience members asked some great related questions about how to apply these principles in their own lives. Zach took the time to speak to each person in attendance, give free copies of his book, and personalize them. This was not a one-and-done for Zach, and he encouraged every person to keep in touch and let him know how they are doing. While audience members made many comments, the following summed the evening up beautifully:

“They told me that I can’t, you told me I can, so they were wrong, I CAN!”