

**Georgia's
Champions**

October 2024

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS GEORGIA
PRESENTS**

**2024 STATE FALL GAMES
OPENING CEREMONY**

**Friday, October 18th
Opening Ceremony: 7:30-8:30pm
Freedom Park Valdosta
3795 Guest Rd, Valdosta, GA 31605**

**Come join in on the fun as we
kick off our State Fall Games.
For more information contact
Meredith-Elizabeth Crum at
MEC@SpecialOlympicsGA.org or
229-834-8277**



**GRAND MARSHAL:
MASON MASSEY**

Presenting Sponsors



October 2024

Georgia's Champions

Special Olympics
Georgia



Special Olympics Georgia, SOGA, would like to announce an incentive program to offer more athletes the opportunity to participate in SOGA. The incentive is called the Medical Incentive Program, beginning August 9th, 2024, and runs through October 9th, 2024. Any registered Agency that sends in a new medical packet, which includes the medical form, release form, and 2 health history forms, to register a new athlete or re-register an athlete whose form expired on or before December 31st, 2023, will receive a check from SOGA in the amount of \$45.00 per medical packet.

SOGA INCENTIVE

SPECIAL OLYMPICS GEORGIA MEDICAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM



Visit <https://linktr.ee/specialolympicsgeorgia> to learn more!

2024 STATE FALL GAMES SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

STATE FALL GAMES

Friday, October 18, 2024

11:00 am - 4:00 pm	Agency & Housing Check-In at Freedom Park
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Bocce at Freedom Park on Fields 11 & 12
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Team Softball at Freedom Park
7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Opening Ceremony, Fireworks & Dance at Freedom Park.
9:30 pm	Agencies depart Freedom Park to hotels
10:00 pm	CURFEW (Inside your rooms & lights out)

HOUSING SPONSORS:



Saturday, October 19, 2024

6:15 am - 7:15 am	Breakfast at hotel
8:00 am - 4:00 pm	Bocce at Freedom Park on Fields 11 & 12
8:00 am - 4:00 pm	Team Softball at Freedom Park
8:00 am - 3:00 pm	Golf 9 /18 – hole play at Quiet Pines Golf Course
8:00 am – 3:00 pm	Cycling at Freedom Park
8:00 am – 11:00 am	Softball Skills at <u>Freedom Park</u> on Miracle League Field
8:30 am - 2:00 pm	Olympic Town, <u>Freedom Park</u> Field 1 (under tents).
8:30 am – 2:00 pm	Healthy Athletes (Special Smiles, Healthy Hearing & Strong Minds) Olympic Town, <u>Freedom Park</u> on Field 1 under tent.
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Agencies depart for home from sports venues.

PRESENTING SPONSORS:



SAVE THE DATES

Georgia's Champions

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Friday – October 18th

1:00 pm - 1:45 pm
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Athlete Check In
Competition – Traditional Bocce Only
(Miracle League Field Complex, Fields 11 & 12)

LOCATION: FREEDOM PARK

VENUE DIRECTOR: TAMMY CROSBY
RULES DIRECTORS: KEVIN ENRIGHT & ALLISON DAVIS

Saturday – October 19th

7:30 am - 8:00 am
8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Athlete Check In
Competition – Traditional & Unified Bocce
(Miracle League Field Complex, Fields 11 & 12)



**Games will have a 30 minute time limit*

**Athletes check in at the registration tent at Field 11 for Unified Bocce and Field 12 for Traditional Bocce.*

**Friday Bocce competition will be for Traditional Bocce Teams only and will take place on both Fields 11 & 12.*

**Please arrive at your game 30 minutes before your game to check-in*

**Awards will be presented after your team has been eliminated from the tournament*

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Friday – October 18th

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Team Competition

LOCATION: FREEDOM PARK

Saturday – October 19th

8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Team Competition

VENUE DIRECTORS: MEGHAN SULLIVAN & MATEO SULLIVAN

**Games will have a 1 hour time limit or 7 innings.*

**Unified Competition will be on Fields 7 & 8 at Freedom Park*

**Traditional Competition will be on Fields 2, 3, 4 & 6 at Freedom Park.*

**Modified Competition will be on Fields 5, 9 & 10 at Freedom Park.*

**Teams will check in at their assigned fields per the brackets prior to each start time.*

**Bring your own equipment & full catchers gear.*



◆ SOFTBALL SKILLS – Freedom Park (Miracle League Field) ◆

Saturday – October 19th

8:00 am - 11:00 am

Competition

**Athletes compete on the Miracle League Field at Freedom Park. *Awards will be presented after each division completes their skills contest.*

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Saturday – October 19th - Levels 2, 3, 4 & 5 Hole Play Only

7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

Golfer Check In

8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Competition

LOCATION: QUIET PINES GOLF COURSE

VENUE DIRECTOR: ELLEN HOLLAND

Check-In will be located at the rear of the Quiet Pines Pro Shop & Restaurant.



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Saturday – October 19th - Time Trial Cycling Events Only

7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

Athlete Check In

8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Competition

LOCATION: FREEDOM PARK DISC GOLF COURSE PARKING LOT

VENUE DIRECTOR: STEPHANIE BAILEY

All Athletes Bicycles must be inspected and approved for competition prior to Fall Games. There will not be a bike inspection on-site.



SAVE THE DATES

Georgia's Champions

2025 STATE INDOOR WINTER GAMES

VOLUNTEERS *Needed*

We need volunteers for a variety of jobs at our 2025 State Indoor Winter Games! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Elizabeth Joyce at Elizabeth.Joyce@specialolympicsga.org or (770) 414-9390 ext. 1116

JANUARY 31ST-
FEBRUARY 1ST, 2025



CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP NOW!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT
[HTTPS://WWW.SPECIALOLYMPICSGA.ORG](https://www.specialolympicsga.org) OR
CONTACT ELIZABETH JOYCE AT
ELIZABETH.JOYCE@SPECIALOLYMPICSGA.ORG

Special Olympics Georgia's Fall Medfest



As we prepare for the Fall Games, we're ensuring our athletes are in top shape! On Friday, September 13, we hosted MedFest and Healthy Hearing at SOGA's Norcross location, serving 54 athletes. These vital Healthy Athletes screenings wouldn't be possible without our dedicated doctors. A huge thank you to Dr. Powell, Dr. Ward from Dr. Chris Natural Remedies, Dr. Carter, Healthy Hearing

Clinical Director Dr. Bernstein, AuD! Dr. Bernstein played a crucial role in securing support from Georgia State University's Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders and Marietta Hearing Center for the screenings.

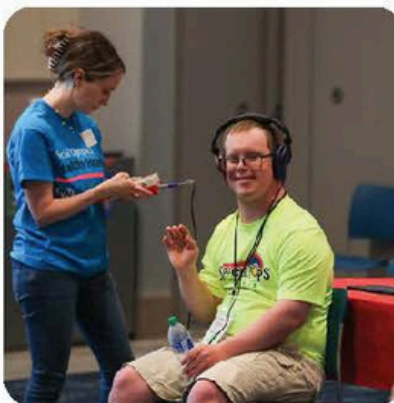
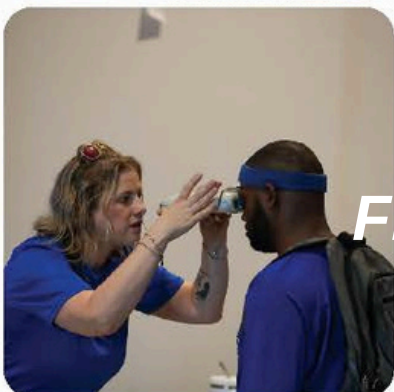
SOGA would also like to thank Ellen Lopez and volunteers from Georgia State University's Center for Leadership in Disability, Georgia Statewide Disability and Health project for providing post screening resources to athletes 18 years and older. Lastly, thank you to Axess Health Solutions for providing information on in home care options. With all of this amazing support, we look forward to seeing you at our next Healthy Athletes screening!



Medical Volunteers Needed



Special Olympics Georgia (SOGA) is seeking additional healthcare professionals and students to join our medical volunteer team, assisting with health screenings across various counties in Georgia.



For more information contact:

Leksi Whatley

Health and Wellness Manager

Leksi.Whatley@SpecialOlympicsGA.org

(770)414-9390 Ext. 1111

Special Olympics
Georgia



PLAY UNIFIED with Atlanta United



September's #Unified match was electric ⚡! Both teams played hard, but ultimately Atlanta took the win! It was an eventful day, filled with big names and crowd participation! Congratulations on a great game and an awesome season! Until next year!



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2024 STATE FALL GAMES SPONSORS

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Quiet Pines Golf Course
Reames Concrete Company
Mike and Pam Levitt Family Foundation

Simmons & Harrell PC
Sunset Farm Foods, Inc.
Synovus Bank Valdosta
The First Bank
The Hydraulic Shop, LLC
Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks & Rec



thanks
for your
support



Thank you to CoStar Group for their unwavering commitment to our 18,546 athletes and their families since 2019! CoStar Group's continuous support at Summer Games every year has been a cornerstone of the event's success. They have hosted a lively booth at our Opening Ceremony, handing out light up bracelets to our community. Their commitment has allowed our athletes to shine, fostering a sense of community and accomplishment. Their contributions have made an immeasurable impact, helping create life-changing experiences for our athletes, families, and volunteers alike. CoStar Group's support exemplifies the spirit of inclusion and empowerment that drives Special Olympics. Thank you, CoStar Group, for being such a vital part of our mission!



<https://www.costar.com>

October 2024

Georgia's Champions

Topgolf Invitational Tournament

Everyone had a great time at the 2024 Topgolf Invitational Tournament! There were 38 athlete participants, 40 volunteers, 2 SOGA team members, and 1 Global Messenger! Athletes golfed for 2 hours and were awarded Special Olympics Georgia medals, ribbons, and a Topgolf coin. SOGA thanks Topgolf Buford for the opportunity!



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Georgia's Champions

In Memory of Bill Brewster, 1962 - 2024



Bill and his family participated, volunteered, fundraised and supported the organization for over 20 years. Bill served on the Board of Directors for 6 years and was our Chairman of the Board in 2007.

SOGA cannot thank and count the numerous contributions Bill and his family have made to Special Olympics Georgia and he will be greatly missed. Bill worked as a

trademark attorney for Kilpatrick Townsend for thirty-seven years and was widely recognized as one of the country's top trademark and advertising litigators.

He was lead trial counsel in numerous high-stakes cases, including *adidas v. Payless*, where his team won the largest jury verdict ever entered in a trademark case. For six years, Bill served as the firm's

managing partner and remains the youngest person to ever lead an AmLaw 200 firm. For the last seventeen years, he proudly led the largest trademark team in the world. His colleagues often joked Bill

enjoyed his work more than any other lawyer in the country.

Bill was an active community volunteer. He served as a member of Kilpatrick Townsend's Pro Bono Committee, and he received the inaugural Community Service Award from the Georgia State Bar IP Section, which recognized his pro bono contributions as well as his time as Chairman of the Board for Special Olympics Georgia. Special Olympics Georgia's thoughts and prayers are with the Brewster family today and always.

ATHLETE OF THE MONTH



Jake M.

Jake is the “Hart” of Special Olympics in Hart County. Jake has been an athlete since he was eight-years-old and remains active in all sports. He has a sweet demeanor but he’s quite determined when it comes to sports like golf and bowling. Involvement in sports from bocce to bowling has allowed Jake to overcome physical challenges that many would see as impossible or unrealistic. Through team activities he has been able to proudly participate in sports and he takes pride in his success.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



Erin H.

We are thrilled to recognize Erin as our Volunteer of the Month! A dedicated athlete with Special Olympics for nearly 40 years, Erin embodies the spirit of inclusion and leadership. As a Global Messenger and Health Messenger for Special Olympics Georgia, Erin has made a significant impact in her community. In August, she spoke at the Dunwoody Country Club's Charity Weekend, sharing her inspiring journey.

She also appeared on 11Alive's Atlanta & Company in September, further amplifying the Special Olympics message.

Erin has traveled to Washington, D.C., to receive specialized training as a Health Messenger, equipping her to teach fellow athletes how to lead healthy lifestyles. Her commitment to spreading the message of inclusion and empowering her peers makes her a true leader, both statewide and nationally.

Thank you, Erin, for your passion and dedication to Special Olympics Georgia!

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**COACHES
NEED TO GET RE-CERTIFIED?
RENEW YOUR CERTIFICATION
ONLINE!**



<https://www.specialolympicsga.org/become-an-athlete/coach/>



ANY QUESTIONS EMAIL
LIZ.SMITH@SPECIALOLYMPICSGA.ORG

CALLING ALL UNIFIED PARTNERS

Unified partners train and compete on the same team comprised of athletes with and without intellectual disabilities.

COME BE A PART OF INCLUSION. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING A PART OF A SPECIAL OLYMPICS TEAM PLEASE CONTACT US!

LIZ.SMITH@SPECIALOLYMPICSGA.ORG



SOGA PROMOS



Thinking of selling or trading in that old car, boat or RV? Donate it instead! SOGA has partnered with CARS to turn your old vehicle, whether it's running or not, into much needed funds for our programs. CARS accepts most cars, trucks, trailers, boats, RV's, motorcycles, off road vehicles, heavy equipment, and most other motorized vehicles. CARS will make all the arrangements at no cost to you. They handle the title transfer requirements and will provide you with a written acknowledgement of your donation and tax deduction information. Click here for more information or to donate your vehicle. A helpful representative will contact you within 24 hours to schedule a pickup, or call CARS seven days a week at 1-844-404-SOGA (7642) to speak with a representative.

Thank you to agency treasurers for the hard work and timely financial submissions!



KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS® Kroger Community Rewards® makes supporting SOGA super easy...all you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Plus Card! Sign up with your 12 digit Kroger Plus Card number at Kroger Community Awards, and in the Community Rewards section, select Special Olympics Georgia (code SH080) as the organization you wish to support. Once you're enrolled, you'll earn rewards for SOGA every time you shop and use your Plus Card, and you'll keep earning rewards points for yourself! Enroll now for Kroger Community Awards (you must re-enroll each year to continue earning rewards for SOGA). If your Kroger Plus Card is not already registered online, you will need to create an account. If you already have an account, simply sign in, find the Community Rewards section, and select Special Olympics Georgia. Questions or problems, contact Mary Thomason at Mary.Thomason@specialolympicsga.org



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SPREAD THE WORD

Please help us grow the family even more. Please forward this e-newsletter to your friends and family so they can sign up to also receive the monthly e-newsletter!

