



**Georgia's  
Champions**

**November 2024**

# State Fall Games

## Opening Ceremony

**Friday, November 22nd at 7:30p.m.**

Freedom Park on Field 1

3795 Guest Road, Valdosta, GA 31605

COME JOIN IN ON THE FUN AS WE KICK OFF OUR STATE FALL GAMES. A FIREWORKS CELEBRATION WILL CAP OFF THE OPENING CEREMONY AND LEAD INTO THE ATHLETE DANCE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT DAVID CRAWFORD AT  
[DAVID.CRAWFORD@SPECIALOLYMPICSGA.ORG](mailto:DAVID.CRAWFORD@SPECIALOLYMPICSGA.ORG)



**Grand Marshal:  
Mason Massey**



**2024 FALL GAMES**  
**FREEDOM PARK - VALDOSTA, GA**

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

## We Need Help With

- Bocce
- Softball
- Golf
- Cycling

We need volunteers for a variety of jobs at our 2024 State Fall Games! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Elizabeth Joyce at [Elizabeth.Joyce@specialolympicsga.org](mailto:Elizabeth.Joyce@specialolympicsga.org) or (770) 414-9390 ext. 1116

**November 22nd-23rd**



**Click here to sign up now!**



For more information, please visit <https://www.specialolympicsga.org> or  
Contact Elizabeth Joyce at [Elizabeth.Joyce@SpecialOlympicsGA.org](mailto:Elizabeth.Joyce@SpecialOlympicsGA.org)

## 2024 STATE FALL GAMES SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### STATE FALL GAMES

#### Friday, November 22, 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:



#### OPENING CEREMONY SPONSOR:



#### Saturday, November 23, 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.

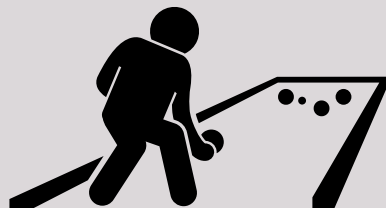
#### PRESENTING SPONSORS:



#### OLYMPIC TOWN:



Knights of  
Columbus®  
Georgia  
State Council



# SAVE THE DATES

# Georgia's Champions

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## Friday – November 22<sup>nd</sup>

1:00 pm - 1:45 pm

Athlete Check In

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

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 – November 23<sup>rd</sup>

7:30 am - 8:00 am

Athlete Check In

8:00 am - 4:00 pm

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 – November 22<sup>nd</sup>

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Team Competition

**LOCATION: FREEDOM PARK**

**VENUE DIRECTORS: MEGHAN**

**SULLIVAN & MATEO SULLIVAN**

## Saturday – November 23<sup>rd</sup>

8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Team Competition



*\* 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 – November 23<sup>rd</sup>

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*

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## Saturday – November 23<sup>rd</sup> - 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.

*their  
skills  
contest.*



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## Saturday – November 23<sup>rd</sup> - 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



**Special  
Olympics**  
Georgia

## ATLANTA GLADIATORS VS. JACKSONVILLE ICEMEN

**TEDDY BEAR TOSS EVENT**

**DECEMBER 13, 2024 @ 7:30 PM**  
**GAS SOUTH ARENA, DULUTH, GA**

**BE A PART OF THE TRADITION TO THROW  
YOUR TEDDY BEARS ON THE ICE AS THE  
GLADIATORS SUPPORT SOGA!**

**[CLICK HERE FOR TICKETS!](#)**

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:ELIZABETH.JOYCE@SPECIALOLYMPICSGA.ORG)**

# SAVE THE DATES

Georgia's  
Champions

# JOIN US FOR THE 2025 POLAR PLUNGE



## FEBRUARY 22, 2025 AT ACWORTH BEACH

FOR SPONSOR OR VENDER  
INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT  
MEREDITH-ELIZABETH CRUM  
AT  
[MEC@SPECIALOLYMPICSGA.ORG](mailto:MEC@SPECIALOLYMPICSGA.ORG)

Special  
Olympics  
**Healthy  
Athletes®**



Exciting updates are here! We've streamlined our request process with new forms for documenting events and helping you connect with medical staff. You can take a look on SOGA's website under Athletes + Resources.

Plus, we're on the lookout for clinical directors across eight different disciplines—if you're passionate about volunteering and providing medical assistance, we want to hear from you! We're also meeting with our health messengers to organize some fun and engaging healthy athlete events. Stay tuned and keep up with our social media for all the latest news and updates on what's coming next!

**The following forms can be found on SOGA's page under:  
Athletes + Resources -> Healthy Athletes**

- [SOGA Healthy Athletes Screening Reporting Form](#)
- [SOGA: Area/ Local Coordinators Searching For Medical Staff](#)
- [SOGA Healthy Athletes Screening Request Form](#)
- [SOGA Healthy Athletes Screening Attendance Form](#)
- [SOGA Clinical Director Medical Volunteer Interest Form](#)

## Distinguished **SERVICE AWARDS**

**DO YOU KNOW OF AN OUTSTANDING  
VOLUNTEER IN THE SOGA COMMUNITY?  
THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE THEM BE  
RECOGNIZED!**



**SUBMIT**

Send your nominations to:  
[Leksi.Whatley@Special.OlympicsGA.org](mailto:Leksi.Whatley@Special.OlympicsGA.org)  
before December 1, 2024.

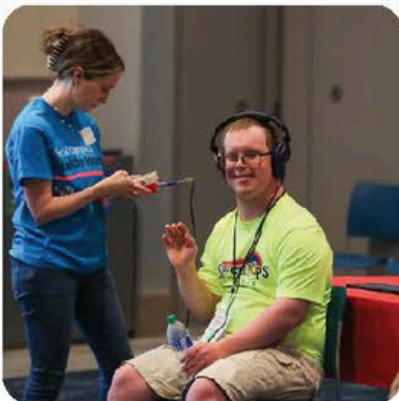
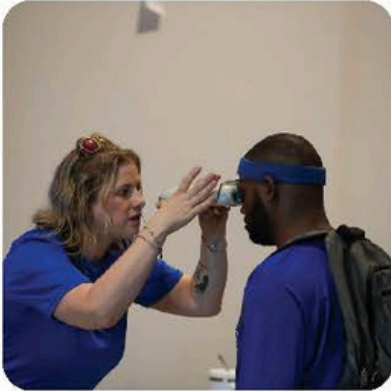




## Medical Volunteers Needed



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](mailto:Leksi.Whatley@SpecialOlympicsGA.org)

(770)414-9390 Ext. 1111

**Special Olympics**  
Georgia



## 26th Annual Marlow's Tavern Golf Classic



We had a great time at the 26th annual Marlow's Tavern Golf Classic, benefiting Special Olympics Georgia athletes! It's always an awesome event! Thank you Marlow's Tavern, we look forward to doing it all again next year for Georgia's Champions!



# November 2024

# Georgia's Champions

## THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2024 STATE FALL GAMES SPONSORS



Arrow Screenprinting  
Citizens Community Bank  
Compass Behavioral  
Developmental Consultants LCC  
Friendly Express, Inc.  
First Christian Church

Greg Spells Photography  
Hubby Brooks Photography  
Miller Hardware  
Mike and Pam Levitt Family Foundation  
Miracle League of Valdosta  
Quiet Pines Golf Course  
Reames Concrete Company  
Washington Electric Foundation

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



thanks  
for your  
support



## Southwire®

Southwire is a long-standing supporter of Special Olympics Georgia and the 18,546 athletes. Southwire is known as one of the leading manufacturers of wire and cable used in the transmission and distribution of electricity. Southwire delivers power to millions of people around the world. They are committed to inspiring and touching lives by developing innovative systems and solutions, exercising environmental stewardship, and enhancing the well-being of their communities as they deliver Power & Responsibly® through their core tenets: Growing Green, Living Well, Giving Back, Doing Right, and Building Worth. Southwire is a presenting sponsor for our annual Polar Plunge event, where athletes, volunteers, and supporters fundraise and take a cold plunge at Acworth Beach in support of Special Olympics Georgia. Our upcoming Polar Plunge will be held on February 22, 2025. With the help of Southwire, Polar Plunge 2024 was able to raise over \$233,771.00. We want to say a big thank you to Southwire for their great support year-round!



<https://www.southwire.com/>

## 2025 SHOOT FOR CHAMPIONS

Please join us for our 10th, Annual Shoot for Champions sporting clays tournament benefiting Special Olympics Georgia and the 18,546 athletes from across the State of Georgia. This event will be held at the beautiful Garland Mountain Sporting Clays, located atop Garland Mountain overlooking Waleska, Georgia (Just 50 miles from Atlanta), on August 22nd, 2025.

### 2025 SHOOT FOR CHAMPIONS

BENEFITING  
SPECIAL OLYMPICS GEORGIA

Please join us for our 10<sup>th</sup>. Annual Shoot for Champions sporting clays tournament benefiting Special Olympics Georgia and the 18,546 athletes from across the State of Georgia. This event will be held at the beautiful Garland Mountain Sporting Clays, located atop Garland Mountain overlooking Waleska, Georgia (Just 50 miles from Atlanta), on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025.

This event will feature a round of clays at 12 picturesque stations, breakfast, a lunch reception, the opportunity to participate in games, with prizes, shooter gifts, and a silent auction featuring many unique items.

The money raised during this event will help send athletes to the State Games.



8:30 a.m. Registration/Breakfast

9:45 a.m. Sponsor Welcome & Safety Briefing

10:00 a.m. Start Time

12:45 p.m. Athlete Speaker, Lunch, Awards,  
Great Prizes & Silent Auction

To sign up today email:  
Hadley.Shore@specialolympicsga.org

#### AVAILABLE SPONSORSHIPS

[www.specialolympicsga.org](http://www.specialolympicsga.org)

##### Presenting Sponsor - \$10,000

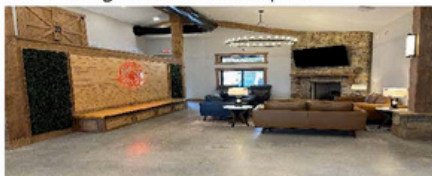
- Three Shooting Teams of Four w/ Three Carts
- Two Tittle Sponsor Banners with Logo at Event Registration Lodge
- Recognition in all Media Releases and Social Media (Facebook, X, Website, Printed Materials, Press Releases)
- Sponsor Remarks, Recognition at Award Ceremony, and Opportunity to Speak at Closing Ceremony
- Recognition on Save The Date Flyer
- Opportunity to place information or give a way item in Shooter Bags
- Logo on Event Page on SOGA Website
- Signage at Three Shooting Stations
- Listing in SOGA Annual Report

##### Title Sponsor - \$7,500

- Two Shooting Teams of Four w/ Two Carts
- Tittle Sponsor Banner with Logo at Event Registration Lodge
- Recognition in all Media Releases and Social Media (Facebook, X, Website, Printed Materials, Press Releases)
- Sponsor Remarks, Recognition at Award Ceremony
- Logo on Event Page on SOGA Website
- Signage at Three Shooting Stations
- Listing in SOGA Annual Report

##### Sharpshooter Sponsor - \$3,500

- One Shooting Team of Four w/ Cart
- Sponsor Signage with Logo at Registration
- Recognition in Press Releases
- Logo on Event Page on SOGA Website
- Signage at Long Bird Station or Wild Bird Station
- Signage at One Shooting Stations
- Listing in SOGA Annual Report



##### Sharpshooter Sponsor - \$3,500

- One Shooting Team of Four w/ Cart
- Sponsor Signage with Logo at Registration
- Recognition in Press Releases
- Logo on Event Page on SOGA Website
- Signage at Long Bird Station or Wild Bird Station
- Signage at One Shooting Stations
- Listing in SOGA Annual Report

##### Ammo Sponsor - \$3,000

- One Shooting Team of Four w/ Cart
- Sponsor Signage with Logo at Registration
- Logo on Event Page on SOGA Website
- Signage at Two Shooting Stations
- Listing in SOGA Annual Report

##### Lunch/Breakfast Sponsor - \$5,000

- Sponsor Remarks at Lunch
- One Shooting Team of Four w/ Cart
- Sponsor Signage with Logo at Registration
- Recognition in Press Releases
- Logo on Event Page on SOGA Website
- Signage at Long Bird Station or Wild Bird Station
- Signage at Lunch
- Signage at One Shooting Stations
- Listing in SOGA Annual Report

##### Long/Wild Bird Sponsor - \$2,000

- One Shooting Team of Four w/ Cart
- Signage at Long Bird Station or Wild Bird Station
- Signage at Breakfast
- Signage at One Shooting Stations
- Listing in SOGA Annual Report

##### One Shooting Team- \$1,700

- One Shooting Team of Four
- Listing in SOGA Annual Report

##### Station Sponsor - \$1,000

- Two shooting Spots with Cart
- Recognition on SponsorBoard
- Signage at One Shooting Station
- Listing in SOGA Annual Report

##### Indivial Sponsor - \$450

- One Shooting Spot

For more information about sponsorship opportunities and to register, contact: Hadley at 770-414-9390 X 1105

[hadley.shore@specialolympicsga.org](mailto:hadley.shore@specialolympicsga.org)

## ATHLETE OF THE MONTH



**Jake T.**

Jake has been participating in Special Olympics for many years, starting in elementary school. He has competed with Henry County Parks and Recreation for the last 5 years in Bowling and Bocce. He has the biggest smile every time you see him. He has the best attitude towards life and is an example for us all to follow. Jake can always be seen encouraging his teammates and making others smile.

Jake was so happy when he heard the news of the Fall Games being rescheduled for November, he hasn't stopped smiling. I will let you in on a little secret, he loves riding the bus to games more than anything. Everyone needs a Jake; he can't help but cheer you up. Congrats Jake!

## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



### **Jennifer B.**

We are excited to honor Jennifer B. as our Volunteer of the Month! A special education teacher at Carson Middle School, Jennifer joined Special Olympics Georgia (SOGA) this year and quickly became a key player in launching our first Special Olympics Greene County Management Team.

Her dedication shines through in her support for basketball, volleyball, softball, and tennis practices. Jennifer's exceptional organizational skills have made trips and competitions successful, and her enthusiasm inspires everyone involved.

Thank you, Jennifer, for your hard work and commitment to our athletes and the SOGA community! You are a true asset to Greene County!

# November 2024

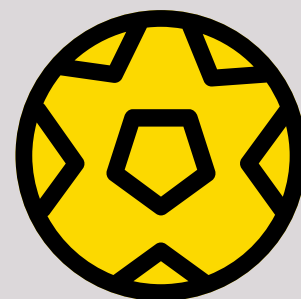
# Georgia's Champions



**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](mailto:Mary.Thomason@specialolympicsga.org)



**WEB SEARCHES** Each time you conduct a search on [www.GoodSearch.com](http://www.GoodSearch.com), one penny goes to benefit Special Olympics Georgia. Make Good Search your home page by going to "tools" in your browser and then clicking on "internet options." Type [www.GoodSearch.com](http://www.GoodSearch.com) in the space for home page. The first time you visit the site, type "Special Olympics Georgia in the box for "Who do you goodsearch for?"

## 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!

