



Georgia's Champions

February 2025

We are quackers for...

♥ VALENTINE'S
DAY!



SHOW YOUR LOVE
FOR AN ATHLETE
THIS VALENTINE'S
DAY BY ADOPTING
A DUCK SO THEY
CAN COMPETE IN
THE STATE GAMES!

♥ [CLICK HERE TO
ADOPT YOUR DUCKS!](#)



**Special
Olympics**
Georgia



2025 POLAR PLUNGE

2025 POLAR PLUNGE



**SCAN TO TAKE THE
PLUNGE OR
CREATE/JOIN A
TEAM**



**SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 22, 2025
AT ACWORTH BEACH**

***Click HERE*
*to sign up!***

2025 STATE INDOOR WINTER GAMES MEDAL COUNT



2025 STATE INDOOR WINTER GAMES RECAP



SPORTS COMPETED AT STATE INDOOR WINTER GAMES:
BASKETBALL TEAM AND BASKETBALL INDIVIDUAL SKILLS,
BOWLING, FLOOR HOCKEY, PICKLEBALL, ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS
AND POWERLIFTING

MEDAL COUNT AT STATE INDOOR WINTER GAMES:



4TH PLACE: 262



5TH PLACE: 33



6TH PLACE: 57



SAVE THE DATES

2025 EVENTS & STATE GAMES

1/10-19

PUBLIX LIGHT THE TORCH CAMPAIGN

1/31-2/1

STATE INDOOR WINTER GAMES

2/22

POLAR PLUNGE

3/07

MEDFEST

5/16-18

STATE SUMMER GAMES

10/17-18

STATE FALL GAMES

Special Olympics
Georgia



SAVE THE DATES



**MEDFEST
MARCH 7, 2025
9 AM- 2 PM**

6046 Financial Dr.
Norcross, GA 30071



SPECIAL OLYMPICS GEORGIA SPRING MEDFEST:



Athlete Medicals



Skill Practice



Additional Healthy Athletes Screening TBD

Questions or concerns contact us below:



(770) 414 9390 EXT. 1111



LEKSI.WHATLEY@SPECIALOLYMPICSGA.ORG

2025 STATE SUMMER GAMES VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

**2025 SUMMER STATE GAMES @ EMORY UNIVERSITY
MAY 16-18, 2025**




We need volunteers for a variety of jobs at our 2025 Summer State Games. Look below to contact Leksi Whatley for more information or scan/ click below.



CLICK HERE



Contact us to learn more!

-  (770) 414-9390 Ext. 1111
-  Leksi.Whatley@SpecialOlympicsGA.org
-  <https://www.specialolympicsga.org>



THANK YOU PUBLIX ASSOCIATES, MANAGERS AND SHOPPERS!



Thank you to Publix Super Markets for continuously supporting Special Olympics Georgia athletes through the “Light the Torch” campaign held annually in January. Because of their generosity, more athletes like Shaun are able to compete in the sports they love! Shaun has participated in Special Olympics for over 20 years and loves being a Publix associate. Publix has been a dedicated partner of Special Olympics, supporting its initiatives to promote inclusion and empowerment for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 INDOOR WINTER GAMES SPONSORS



THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 INDOOR WINTER GAMES SPONSORS
SPECIAL OLYMPICS GEORGIA EXTENDS OUR HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO ALL THE INCREDIBLE SPONSORS OF THE 2025 INDOOR WINTER GAMES. YOUR GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN CREATING AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE FOR OUR ATHLETES, THEIR FAMILIES, AND THE COMMUNITY. THE 2025 INDOOR WINTER GAMES TOOK PLACE ON JANUARY 31 AND FEBRUARY 1, AND WE ARE THRILLED TO WELCOME OVER 1,800 ATHLETES AND UNIFIED PARTNERS TO SHOWCASE THEIR TALENTS IN OLYMPIC-STYLE COMPETITIONS. YOUR COMMITMENT HAS HELPED US PROVIDE THE RESOURCES NEEDED TO MAKE THESE GAMES TRULY SPECIAL.

FROM VENUE SPONSORSHIPS TO VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS, YOUR PARTNERSHIP EMPOWERS INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES TO ACHIEVE THEIR DREAMS AND INSPIRES INCLUSION ACROSS GEORGIA. THANK YOU FOR HELPING US CREATE A MEMORABLE AND IMPACTFUL EVENT. TOGETHER, WE ARE CHANGING LIVES AND BUILDING A MORE INCLUSIVE WORLD.

2025 STATE SUMMER GAMES FACT SHEET

2025 STATE SUMMER GAMES MAY 16 – MAY 18 EMORY UNIVERSITY (ATLANTA)

Sports:

Swimming	Athletics (Track & Field)
Gymnastics	Flag Football
Soccer	Table Tennis
Tennis	Volleyball
Cheerleading	

Donate:

Contact Alexander Grainger at (770) 414-9390 extension 1113

Alexander.Grainger@specialolympicsga.org

Who:

2500 Athletes, Coaches and Unified Partners
1000 Volunteers

Opening Ceremony: (Dance to follow)

7:30 – 8:30 p.m., Friday, May 16th

McDonough Field

Liz Smith, (770) 414-9390 extension 1108

Liz.Smith@specialolympicsga.org

Olympic Town

9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Saturday, May 17th

Located on the pedestrian walkway between
McDonough Field and Emory Student Center

Liz Smith, (770) 414-9390 extension 1108

Liz.Smith@specialolympicsga.org

Meals: (For registered delegates only)

Registered delegations will receive meals 3 meals during Summer Games at the Emory Dining Facility. The meals are Friday night dinner and Saturday breakfast & lunch.

David Crawford (229) 292-5143

David.Crawford@specialolympicsga.org

Mission of Special Olympics Georgia

To provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community.

For information contact:

• Events

David Crawford, (229) 292-5143

David.Crawford@specialolympicsga.org

• Sponsorships

Alexander Grainger at (770) 414-9390 ext. 1113

Alexander.Grainger@specialolympicsga.org

• To Volunteer

Click this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4DAEA62FA2FBCF8-51526434-special/>

Leksi Whatley, (770) 414-9390 ext. 1111

Leksi.Whatley@specialolympicsga.org

• Law Enforcement Torch Run

Robert Yost, (229) 834-3434

Robert.Yost@specialolympicsga.org

www.SpecialOlympicsGA.org

HEALTHY ATHLETES

HEALTHY ATHLETES AT YOUR LOCAL COMPETITION



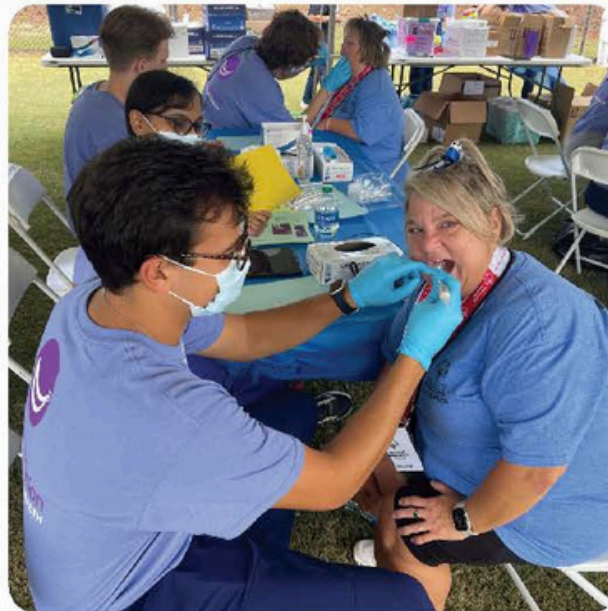
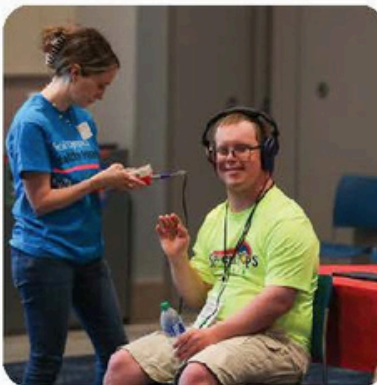
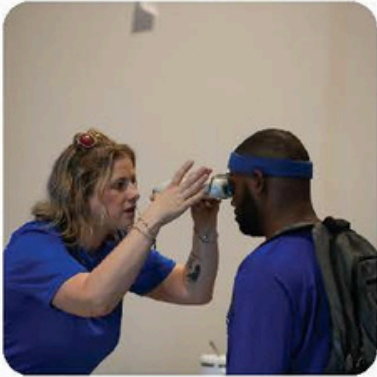
Special Olympics Georgia wants to bring Healthy Athletes to you!

If you would like to host Healthy Athletes screenings at your local competition, please contact Leksi Whatley, leksy.whatley@specialolympicsga.org

CLINICAL 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



2025 SHOOT FOR CHAMPIONS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 2025 – GARLAND MOUNTAIN

2025 SHOOT FOR CHAMPIONS

BENEFITTING
SPECIAL OLYMPICS GEORGIA

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.

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

Presenting Sponsor - \$10,000

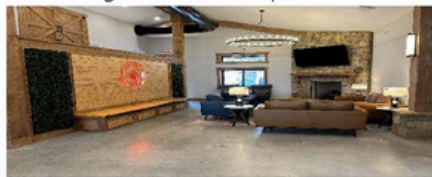
- Three Shooting Teams of Four w/ Three Carts
- Two Tittle Sponsor Banners with Logo at Event Registration Lodge
- Recognition in all Media Releases and Social Media (Facebook, X, Website, Printed Materials, Press Releases)
- Sponsor Remarks, Recognition at Award Ceremony, and Opportunity to Speak at 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

ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

We are happy to introduce Billy R. from Evans County. Billy has been an active athlete for more than 15 years! During his time as a Special Olympics athlete, Billy has competed in Local, Area and State competitions. He has participated in local mini-camps, community parades and is one of our local Hall of Fame athletes. Since graduating from high school he has continued to practice and compete with the program. Over the years of competition, Billy has lost his sight but not his enthusiasm for competing! Billy encourages his fellow athletes and cheers for their success as much as his own. Billy's favorite Special Olympic sport is Bocce. We are proud to celebrate Billy and to have him represent Evans County!

BILLY R.



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Please join Special Olympics Georgia (SOGA) in congratulating long-time supporter and volunteer, John C. as the February 2025 Volunteer of the Month. John's journey with SOGA began back in 2024, when he was serving his term as the Deputy Grand Knight of the St. Catherine of Siena Council 9923 of the Knights of Columbus. John organized a Council outing to SOGA's Camp Inspire. The Knights of Columbus were presenting sponsors for Camp Inspire, which was a camp setting for individuals with intellectual disabilities and individuals without intellectual disabilities, uniting to make new friendships, building inclusivity, and participating in both sports and camp activities for a week.

The Council that attended were interactive with all the campers and attended all activities every day for the entire week. Athletes would come up to John each morning, with smiles and excitement, saying to him, "what time are the Knights coming?" John knew then, this was what he wanted to do and continue to do. Since then, John has been heavily involved in numerous capacities within SOGA. Whether it is having Knights of Columbus sponsor numerous events, volunteering at Opening Ceremony and Olympic Towns at all State Games and even plunging into the icy waters during the Law Enforcement Torch Run of Special Olympics Georgia's Polar Plunge Event, John is there with a smile on his face! Special Olympics Georgia is so appreciative of John C. and are excited to celebrate him as the 2025 February Volunteer of the Month!



John C.

Knights of Columbus

SPONSORSHIP SPOTLIGHT



SPECIAL OLYMPICS GEORGIA IS DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR THE UNWAVERING SUPPORT OF THE RYAN FOUNDATION, A CRUCIAL PARTNER IN ADVANCING OUR MISSION. AS THE PRESENTING SPONSOR OF OUR ANNUAL BOB BUSSE GOLF CLASSIC, THE RYAN FOUNDATION PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN THE SUCCESS OF THIS CHERISHED EVENT. THEIR DEDICATION EXTENDS EVEN FURTHER, AS THEY PROVIDE INCREDIBLE SUPPORT AT OUR WINTER GAMES EACH YEAR, HELPING US CREATE MEMORABLE AND IMPACTFUL EXPERIENCES FOR OUR ATHLETES.

THANK YOU, THE RYAN FOUNDATION, FOR YOUR GENEROSITY, COMMITMENT, AND BELIEF IN THE POWER OF INCLUSION AND OPPORTUNITY. YOUR PARTNERSHIP MAKES A MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OUR ATHLETES AND THEIR FAMILIES ACROSS GEORGIA!



<https://ryan.com/about-ryan/foundation/>

CALLING COACHES AND UNIFIED PARTNERS



**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 PROMOTIONALS



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.

WEB SEARCHES Each time you conduct a search on 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 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!

