

**Georgia's  
Champions**

**January 2025**

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**Special  
Olympics  
Georgia**



## 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**

5/16-18

**STATE SUMMER GAMES**

10/17-18

**STATE FALL GAMES**

**Special Olympics**  
Georgia



## 2025 INDOOR WINTER GAMES VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### 2025 State Indoor Winter Games Volunteers Needed



We need volunteers for powerlifting, bowling, and Healthy Athletes at our 2025 Winter State Games taking place Friday, January, 31 and Saturday, February 1. Click below to sign up. Contact Leksi Whatley for more information.

**CLICK HERE**



## PUBLIX "LIGHT THE TORCH" CAMPAIGN

### SUPPORTING DREAMS

Your gift makes a difference.

For over 40 years, Publix and P&G have been committed to supporting Special Olympics and its athletes. Purchase a torch at checkout to support our mission.



**SUPPORT  
SPECIAL  
OLYMPICS  
GEORGIA  
WHEN YOU  
SHOP AT  
Publix**

**Torch Icon Campaign  
January 10 - 19, 2025**

"Light the Torch" with Publix Super Markets, January 10th-January 19th, 2025. Publix has long been a dedicated partner of the Special Olympics, supporting its initiatives to promote inclusion and empowerment for individuals with intellectual disabilities. One notable aspect of this partnership is Publix's involvement in fundraising campaigns, including the Special Olympics Torch Campaign. Stop in at your local Publix in January and make a donation at a cash register."



## 2025 INDOOR WINTER GAMES FACT SHEET

### 2025 STATE INDOOR WINTER GAMES & SOUTHEAST POWERLIFTING JANUARY 31 – FEBRUARY 1 MARIETTA, GEORGIA

#### Sports:

Basketball  
Bowling  
Gymnastics (Artistic)  
Powerlifting  
Pickleball

#### Who:

3000 Athletes, Coaches and Unified Partners  
1500 Volunteers  
400 Family Members

#### Opening Ceremony:

7:00 p.m., Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>  
Cobb Civic Center  
548 S. Marietta Pkwy. Marietta, GA 30060  
[david.crawford@specialolympicsga.org](mailto:david.crawford@specialolympicsga.org)

#### For information contact:

##### • Events

Liz Smith, (770) 414-9390 ext. 1108  
[liz.smith@specialolympicsga.org](mailto:liz.smith@specialolympicsga.org)

##### • Sponsorships

Alexander Grainger, (770) 414-9390 ext. 1113  
[alexander.grainger@specialolympicsga.org](mailto:alexander.grainger@specialolympicsga.org)

##### • To Volunteer

Leksi Whatley, (770) 414-9390 ext. 1111  
[leksi.whatley@specialolympicsga.org](mailto:leksi.whatley@specialolympicsga.org)  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4DAEA62FA2FBCF8-51109015-special#/>

##### • Law Enforcement Torch Run

Meredith Elizabeth Crum, (229) 834-8277  
[mec@specialolympicsga.org](mailto:mec@specialolympicsga.org)

#### Awards

Awards will take place on Saturday, February 1 roughly at 10 a.m. through 5 p.m. at each sports venue.

## 2025 POLAR PLUNGE

# 2025 POLAR PLUNGE



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



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

**WANT TO TAKE THE PLUNGE WITH  
YOUR TEAM OR PARPARTICIPATE  
IN TUG-OF-WAR?**

**CONTACT**

**MEREDITH-ELIZABETH CRUM  
AT [MEC@SPECIALOLYMPICSGA.ORG](mailto:MEC@SPECIALOLYMPICSGA.ORG)**

## 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](mailto: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 16<sup>th</sup>

McDonough Field

Liz Smith, (770) 414-9390 extension 1108

[Liz.Smith@specialolympicsga.org](mailto:Liz.Smith@specialolympicsga.org)

#### Olympic Town

9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

Located on the pedestrian walkway between

McDonough Field and Emory Student Center

Liz Smith, (770) 414-9390 extension 1108

[Liz.Smith@specialolympicsga.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:david.crawford@specialolympicsga.org)

##### • Sponsorships

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

[Alexander.Grainger@specialolympicsga.org](mailto: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](mailto:Leksi.Whatley@specialolympicsga.org)

##### • Law Enforcement Torch Run

Meredith Elizabeth Crum, (229) 834-8277

[MEC@specialolympicsga.org](mailto:MEC@specialolympicsga.org)

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



## HEALTHY ATHLETES

# HEALTHY ATHLETES AT YOUR LOCAL COMPETITION



Healthy Athletes  
**Special  
Olympics**  
Georgia

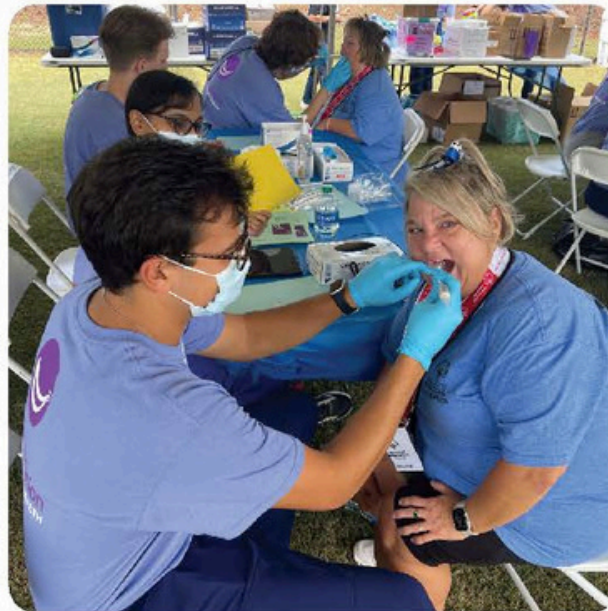
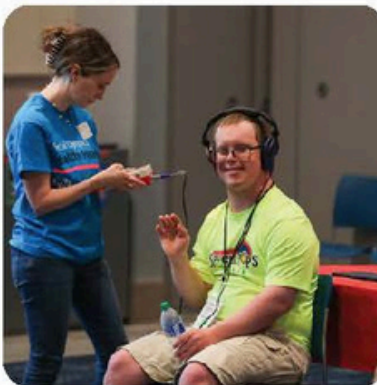
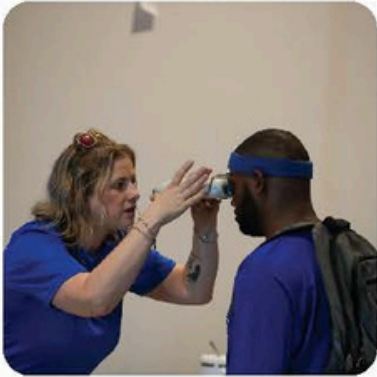
**Special Olympics Georgia wants to bring Healthy Athletes to you!**

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



Special Olympics  
Georgia



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

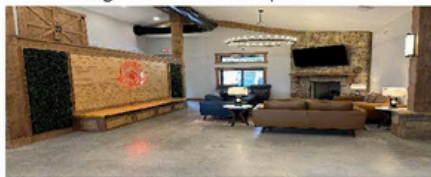
- Three Shooting Teams of Four w/ Three Carts
- Two Tittle Sponsor Banners with Logo at Event Registration Lodge
- Recognition in all Media Releases and Social Media (Facebook, X, Website, Printed Materials, Press Releases)
- Sponsor Remarks, Recognition at Award Ceremony, and Opportunity to Speak at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

Kara was 8 years old when she started participating in Special Olympics, but also participated in Young Athletes. She is now 20 and in the transition program at her school learning job and life skills. Bowling has been her favorite sport that she has done so far. She has also participated in track and field, basketball and dance. She loves to cheer on her friends when they compete. In her free time, Kara loves to play with her dogs Cash and Penny and her cat Cosmo.



**KARA A.**

## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



**Carli J.**

BCBA, LBA

We are thrilled to recognize Carli Joiner, BCBA, LBA as our Volunteer of the Month! Since becoming Special Olympics Georgia's Healthy Athletes Clinical Director for Strong Minds in May 2024, Carli has made an incredible impact on our organization and the individuals we serve. From the moment she stepped into her role, Carli showed a passion for making a difference. Her debut at the Summer Games was a resounding success, with a fantastic turnout that exceeded our expectations. This was just the beginning, as she immediately began to shape the future of our programs with a remarkable dedication to her role.

For the Fall Games, Carli went above and beyond by adjusting her schedule to allow us to hold screenings both Friday and Saturday, resulting in over 80 screenings. This was a huge accomplishment and speaks to her commitment to helping as many people as possible access the care and resources they need.

Thank you, Carli, for your unwavering dedication, hard work, and passion. You have made a profound difference in the lives of so many of SOGAs athletes, and we are incredibly grateful to have you as part of the team.

## SPONSORSHIP SPOTLIGHT



**Crisp, Sweet Miniature Apple**

A BIG THANK YOU TO ROCKIT APPLE FOR THEIR AMAZING SUPPORT OF OUR 18,546 ATHLETES AND THEIR FAMILIES THESE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS! THEIR SUPPORT AT THE SUMMER GAMES IN 2023, 2024 AND OUR UPCOMING 2025 WINTER GAMES HAS BEEN, AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE, A CORNERSTONE OF THE EVENT'S SUCCESS. THEY SPONSORED OUR OPENING CEREMONY AND OLYMPIC TOWN BOOTH, GIVING OUR ATHLETES UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES. THEY'VE ALSO PROVIDED PRODUCT SAMPLES FOR OUR ATHLETES, ADDING TO THE EXCITEMENT! ROCKIT APPLE'S SUPPORT HAS ALLOWED OUR ATHLETES TO SHINE, CREATING A STRONG SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND ACHIEVEMENT. THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE MADE A HUGE IMPACT, HELPING TO CREATE LIFE-CHANGING MOMENTS FOR ATHLETES, FAMILIES, AND VOLUNTEERS. WE ARE SO THANKFUL FOR ROCKIT APPLE'S SUPPORT, WHICH TRULY REFLECTS THE SPIRIT OF INCLUSION AND EMPOWERMENT IN SPECIAL OLYMPICS. THANK YOU, ROCKIT APPLE, FOR BEING SUCH AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR MISSION!



[www.rockitapple.com](http://www.rockitapple.com)



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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!

