

**Georgia's
Champions**

March 2025



St. Patrick's Day



Special Olympics
Georgia 

DON'T GET
PINCHED,
CLICK [HERE](#) TO
ADOPT YOUR
"LUCKY"
DUCKS

2025 POLAR PLUNGE RECAP

POLAR PLUNGE!

Special Olympics Georgia and Law Enforcement Torch Run

Polar Plunge Event

Saturday, February 22, 2025, Lake Acworth

BY THE NUMBERS:

Number of Plungers: 324

Amount Raised by Plungers: \$163,728

Number of Plunge Teams: 41

Number of Tug of War Teams: 6

Number of Sponsors: 18

Amount Donated By Sponsors: \$37,750

Number of Volunteers: 16

Number of SOGA Team: 5

Number of Executive Council Members: 13

Number of Vendors: 11

Media Sponsors: 680 The Fan Radio and Channel 2 TV

THANKS TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED THE PLUNGE!

THANK YOU POLAR PLUNGE SPONSORS

Polar Plunge Sponsors

Presenting Sponsors



Iceberg Sponsors



Igloo Sponsors



Snowflake Sponsors



Snowman Sponsors

Co-Wealth
Advisors



Southern
Air Flow

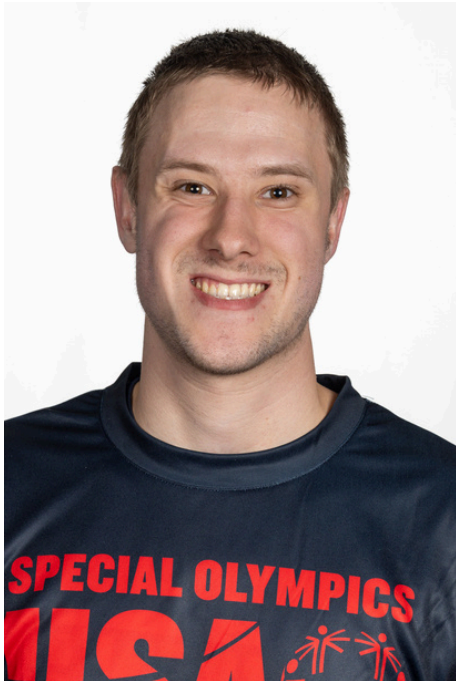
Statewide Sponsors

Publix ~ The Coca-Cola Company ~ Marlow's Tavern ~ Knights of Columbus ~ Winter Construction ~ Dunwoody Country Club

www.specialolympicsga.org



SPECIAL OLYMPICS GEORGIA WORLD WINTER GAMES USA DELEGATES!



THE COUNTDOWN IS ON!
IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE
WORLD WINTER GAMES IN
TURIN! WHO IS READY FOR
ITALY?! WE ARE SO
EXCITED TO SEND OUR
ATHLETES AS OFFICIAL
DELEGATES OF
@SPECIALOLYMPICUSA!



COLE, JAYDA, AND
JEREMIAH WILL
COMPETE IN ALPINE
SKIING AND MITCHELL
M. WILL COACH ALPINE
SKIING!

Read the full bios and learn more by visiting SpecialOlympicsUSA.org!
[#Cheer4USA](https://twitter.com/Cheer4USA) | [#Turin2025](https://twitter.com/Turin2025)

2025 CAPITOL HILL DAY

CAPITOL HILL DAY WAS A GREAT SUCCESS, AS ATHLETE RUDOLPHA R. AND THE SOGA TEAM CONNECTED WITH EIGHT DIFFERENT CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES FOR THE STATE OF GEORGIA, INCLUDING SENATOR OSSOFF'S. WHILE WE WERE UNABLE TO MEET WITH ALL MEMBERS, WE MADE SURE TO LEAVE INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS FOR THOSE WE DIDN'T HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH.

IT WAS AN HONOR TO REPRESENT SPECIAL OLYMPICS GEORGIA DURING SPECIAL OLYMPICS INTERNATIONAL HILL DAY, WHERE WE CONTINUED OUR EFFORTS TO RAISE AWARENESS AND ADVOCATE FOR FUNDING FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS PROGRAMS. THE CENTRAL MESSAGE WAS THE IMPORTANCE OF INCLUSION, RESPECT, AND EQUAL TREATMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES. SOGA IS GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE THESE VITAL STORIES AND TO STRENGTHEN OUR ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS COMMUNITY.



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



DEVOLPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH



**Take the
Pledge**

**SPREAD
THE
WORD** 



Words Affect Attitudes,
Attitudes Impact Actions. Take
the action to spread inclusion.

#PledgeToInclude

IT'S NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH AND WE'RE REMINDING EVERYONE TO EMBRACE THEIR DIFFERENCES AND CHOOSE INCLUSION EVERY DAY! EXCLUSION BEGINS WITH DEROGATORY LANGUAGE. WORDS AFFECT ATTITUDES, ATTITUDES IMPACT ACTIONS. BY TAKING THE PLEDGE, YOU COMMIT TO ACKNOWLEDGING THE HURT CAUSED BY DISPARAGING WORDS TOWARDS PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES AND TAKE A STANCE AGAINST THE USAGE OF DEROGATORY LANGUAGE. #PLEDGETOINCLUDE #SPREADTHEWORD

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND #TAKETHEPLEDGE TODAY!](#)

ESTATE PLANNING



Care for your loved ones:
**Get free resources to assist
with your estate planning**

DOWNLOAD THE RESOURCES

START PLANNING FOR YOUR LOVED ONE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS. TAKE A MOMENT TO UPDATE YOUR BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS. IT'S AN OFTEN OVERLOOKED TASK, BUT CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE TO THE ONES YOU LOVE. [CLICK HERE TO READ MORE!](#)

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 INDOOR STATE WINTER GAMES HEALTHY ATHLETES' CLINICAL VOLUNTEERS!



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



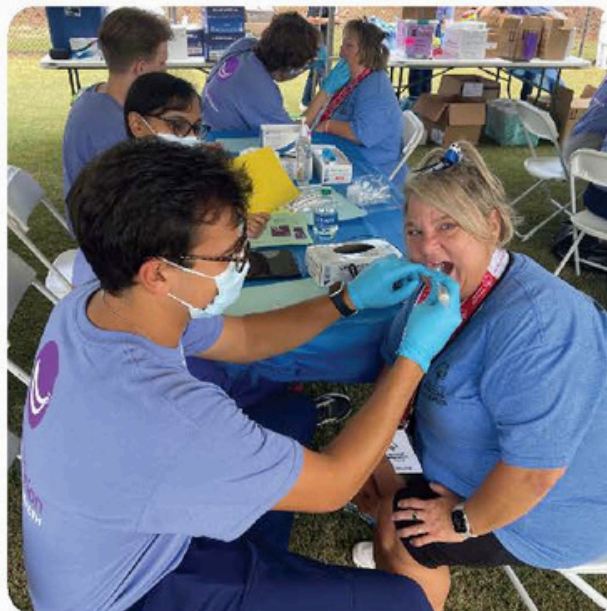
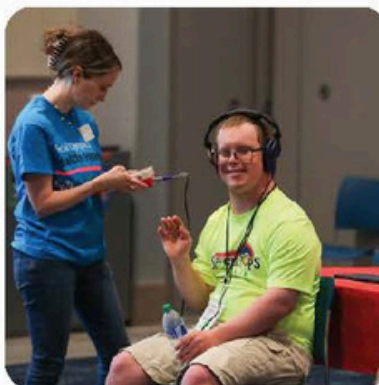
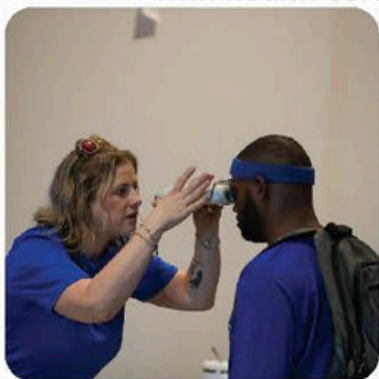
Special Olympics Georgia wants to bring Healthy Athletes to you!

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

11th annual
SHOOT FOR CHAMPIONS

SPECIAL OLYMPICS GEORGIA PRESENTS:

Get ready for an exhilarating experience as we invite you to beautiful Garland Mountain as we fundraise for our Special Olympic Georgia athletes!

FRIDAY AUGUST 22
AT GARLAND MOUNTAIN SPORTING CLAYS & GRILL

SPONSORSHIPS VARY

Secure your spot by visiting:
[HTTPS://CHARITY.PLEDGEIT.ORG/C/WMOS6AGZ6A](https://charity.pledgeit.org/c/wmos6agz6a)
limited slots available, so don't miss your chance to be part of this shooting extravaganza!

THE 30TH ANNUAL BOB BUSSE MEMORIAL GOLF CLASSIC



Special Olympics Georgia Presents

THE 30TH ANNUAL BOB BUSSE MEMORIAL GOLF CLASSIC

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH

Country Club of Roswell

2500 Club Springs Dr.

Roswell, GA 30076

8 AM - 4 PM

**CLICK
HERE FOR
MORE
INFO**



Contact Alexander Grainger
(770) 414-9390 EXT. 1113
ALEXANDER.GRAINGER@SPECIALOLYMPICSGA.ORG



ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Kaleb is a Senior at Lakeside High School in Evans, GA. He enjoys playing and practicing his skills for many sports including basketball, bocce, and golf. However, Kaleb's skills truly shine whenever he is bowling. He loves telling jokes and making people laugh. His smile and laughter are infectious and the joy and positivity he brings to others is such a blessing. Kaleb competed in his very first State Winter Games this year in Team Bowling. He and his teammates had the best time competing together and were able to bring home the GOLD!! When asked what his favorite part about State Games was he said, "Bowling with my friends and having my family cheer for me!"

We are so happy and proud to have Kaleb represent Columbia County Special Olympics and SOGA as the March Athlete of the Month! Way to go, Kaleb!!!

KALEB S.



VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH



Lisa V. & Nolan

GBI/LETR

Thank you "Super Volunteers" Lisa V and her son Nolan!! Lisa and Nolan have been amazing volunteers for many many years. Lisa is a member of the Executive Council of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Georgia and is running the torch into the World Winter Games Opening Ceremony in Turin Italy this month. Lisa and Nolan love giving awards to the athletes at State Games, raising money for the Hockey Fun Day Event, running the torch into the Special Olympics Georgia Opening Ceremony but mostly cheering on the athletes while they compete.

SOGA appreciates all that Lisa and her family do to support Special Olympics Georgia, the Law Enforcement Torch Run and the 18,546 registered athletes in our state. Congratulations for be recognized as the March 2025 Volunteers of the Month.

SPONSORSHIP SPOTLIGHT



SPECIAL OLYMPICS GEORGIA IS PROUD TO RECOGNIZE INWOOD HOLDINGS, LLC FOR THEIR UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO OUR ATHLETES AND MISSION. AS LONG-TIME SUPPORTERS, INWOOD HOLDINGS DOESN'T JUST SPONSOR OUR EVENTS; THEY SHOW UP IN A BIG WAY, VOLUNTEERING AND MAKING A HANDS-ON IMPACT AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY. FROM HOSTING AN INCREDIBLE TABLE TENNIS VENUE AT SUMMER GAMES TO RUNNING A TOP-NOTCH BOWLING VENUE AT WINTER GAMES, THEIR DEDICATION HELPS CREATE UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES FOR OUR ATHLETES.

THANK YOU, INWOOD HOLDINGS, LLC, FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT—WE TRULY COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!



<https://inwoodh.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

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!

