

Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Special Olympics Georgia. Don't forget to add susan.skolnick@specialolympicsga.org to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



Georgia's Champions

April 2016

Be a Fan. Bring Out the Champion in Everyone.

Help support our mission:

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News and Stories

Special Olympics Georgia Visits The Georgia Capitol

On March 2, the annual day of awareness for Spread The Word To End The Word, SOGA athletes Daley Fitzpatrick, Skyler Corliss, and Katy Wilson, SOGA mom Jeanne Wilson, and SOGA staff member Charles Clark visited the Georgia Capitol in Atlanta. The SOGA delegation met with Governor Nathan Deal who presented them with a proclamation declaring it Special Olympics Week.



If you have not already taken the Pledge to use respectful, people-first language, it's not too late. [Click here to take the pledge and change the game for people with intellectual disabilities.](#)

Give a Summer Games Athlete a High \$5! Summer Games, May 20-22

High fives are easy to spot when you're at one of our State Games. And now, you can give a virtual high five to our Summer Games athletes through our "Give an Athlete a High \$5" campaign.

More than 1,800 athletes will compete in aquatics, athletics, flag football, rhythmic gymnastics, soccer, table tennis, tennis, and volleyball at this year's Summer Games at Emory University. The cost per athlete for the weekend is \$100.

[Please click here to make a "Give an Athlete a High \\$5" donation to show your support and help provide life-changing experiences to our Summer](#)

Upcoming Events

Georgia Swarm Lacrosse Game April 15

The Georgia Swarm is helping raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics Georgia athletes. In partnership with 92.9 The Game, the Swarm will donate \$1 to SOGA for each ticket purchased using the ticket code SOGA for their upcoming home game on Friday, April 15.



The game starts at 7:35 p.m. when the Swarm faces off against the New England Black Wolves at Infinite Energy Arena in Duluth. Tickets can be purchased on the [Georgia Swarm website](#), and don't forget to use the code SOGA.

The Georgia Renaissance Festival April 16 - June 5

The Georgia Renaissance Festival will take place on



Games athletes!

Thank you to our generous sponsors: Winter Companies, Cox Automotive, American Honda Motor Company, ADP, The ALTA Foundation, Cox Enterprises, SUPERVALU, Knights of Columbus Charities of Georgia, Inc., Arrow Exterminators, Jones Day, Nordstrom, Rotary Club of Dunwoody, Engel & Völkers, Magnolia Advanced Materials, Voya Financial, Inwood Holdings, Comcast, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Macy's, Aon, Booz Allen Hamilton, Allied World, Rural Sourcing, Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP, Ryan, Skanska, The Men's Wearhouse, The Coca-Cola Company, UPS, Idealease, RR Donnelley, and Emory University!



Check Out SOGA'S 2015 Annual Report

Read athlete stories and reflections on the successes of Special Olympics Georgia for 2015 in the newly released Annual Report. You'll see the impact that everyone's support and friendship had on our athletes.

[Click here to check out the 2015 Annual Report.](#)



Competition Corner

More than 500 Special Olympics competitions take place annually throughout Georgia. Here are some highlights from March:

Area 15 Spring Games were March 3 at Freedom Park in Valdosta. Over 300 students from 26 elementary through high school classes from Brooks, Cook, Lowndes, Tift and Berrien Counties competed in various track-and-field events and softball skills; over 120 volunteers from local schools and community organizations came out to help and show support; lunch was provided by the Valdosta Fire Department; and the Project Unify program at Lowndes County High School conducted an R-Word Rally where everyone had the opportunity to say the R-Word pledge, sign the certificate, and receive an R-Word bracelet. **[Click here to read an article on the Spring Games that appeared in The Valdosta Daily Times.](#)**



Atlanta Public Schools Track-and-Field Games were March 30. More than 300 elementary through high school athletes competed in various track-and-field events.

DeKalb County Track-and-Field Games were March 29, 30, and 31 at North DeKalb Stadium for elementary, middle, and high school students.

Saturdays & Sundays April 16 - June 5. Use promo code **special** to purchase tickets at a discounted price: adults \$15.95 (regularly \$22) and children 6-12 \$7.00 (regularly \$10). In addition, for anyone who uses the promo code special, The Georgia Renaissance Festival will donate \$2.00 per ticket sold to SOGA. Purchase your tickets today at **www.garenfest.com**.

Senoia Raceway April 23

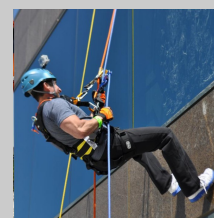
Looking to get involved



in racing and support SOGA at the same time? Sponsor a lap at Senoia Raceway on April 23 for Special Olympics Georgia Night! You will be promoted heavily throughout the event. Proceeds will go to SOGA. All athletes will be admitted free for the night of racing. For more information, contact **[Robin Fabrick](#)** or 770-414-9390 x112.

Over The Edge May 7

You can still sign up to go Over the Edge and help our athletes to reach new heights!!



Over the Edge is an exclusive opportunity for individuals to take their support of athletes of Special Olympics Georgia to new heights. In exchange for raising money, participants will have the rare experience of stepping Over the Edge and rappelling down the Overlook III Building in Vinings! This event is a unique combination of thrill and philanthropy!

Athlete of the Month: Cory Griffin

Cory Griffin spends most of his days at LARC (Lowndes Advocacy Resource Center) collecting and bundling cardboard, but in the evenings, he transforms into a SUPERHERO!

As Valdosta Lowndes Parks & Rec. Authority's new flag football quarterback, Cory (age twenty-two) adorns his armor and leads his teammates into another dimension. Cory's willingness to help others and staff is often telepathic and without hesitation. His achievements on the playing field include medaling in all team sports at superhuman speed. Cory's smile is magnetic and animated. His energy, enthusiasm, and turbo-powered team spirit are what make Cory Special Olympics Georgia's April Athlete of the Month. Congratulations Cory!!



Heights not your thing but you still want to show your support? That's okay, donate at www.oteatlanta2016.com or mail to: Special Olympics Georgia, 4000 Dekalb Technology Parkway, Suite 400, Building 400, Atlanta, GA 30340, Attention: Kristin Hill

Go to: www.oteatlanta2016.com to get started. For more information, contact [Kristin Hill](mailto:Kristin.Hill@specialolympicsga.org).

GEICO Race May 28

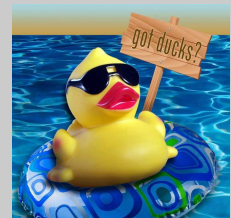
For the 33rd year, GEICO is organizing and hosting a benefit for Special



Olympics Georgia. This year's event is a 5K/1 Mile Fun Run on Saturday, May 28 at 9am on the GEICO Campus in Macon. GEICO's goal is to raise \$80,000. All participants will receive a t-shirt. For more information on sponsoring or participating in the event, please contact Chris Nappi at Cnappi@geico.com or Jonathan Gibson at JonGibson@geico.com.

Duck Pluck August 12

It's Time For You To SPRING Into Action & Adopt Your Duck Today!!



For a donation of \$5 or more, a lucky prize number will be assigned to a yellow rubber duck in your honor. All ducks will be put into the Post Chastain pool for a swim before the 5 winning ducks are plucked! If your lucky duck gets plucked, you WIN A PRIZE!!!

Volunteer of the Month: Sara Lilly

Sara Lilly has shown exemplary community involvement with the Valdosta Special Olympics. For the past three years, Sara has volunteered at local Special Olympics events in every capacity from painting faces in Olympic Town to facilitating the fifty-meter dash.

She embraces the spirit of volunteerism both in her personal involvement and also by example - she brings her young son to each event to teach him the importance of giving to others. Though he is only in second grade, it is evident that his mother has instilled a keen understanding of the values of giving, understanding, and inclusivity. Sara also inspires others to engage in volunteer service through her school at Highland Christian Academy and her church, Grace Baptist.

Sara's cheerful attitude, bright smile, and big heart make her an asset to Valdosta Special Olympics, and her giving spirit makes her a true ambassador among volunteers. Congratulations Sara on being recognized as the April Volunteer of the Month!!



Sponsor of the Month: United Parcel Service, Inc. (UPS) State Premier Sponsor

UPS has been a Statewide Sponsor and supporter of Special Olympics Georgia for decades. Special Olympics Georgia depends on the UPS employees and their families who come out for every State Summer Games each May and single handedly staff the entire meals venue which serves over 6,800 meals throughout the weekend to athletes and coaches.



UPS truly believes in the abilities and potential of the athletes and takes time to get to know each of them. It is so awesome to see the hundreds of brown and gold UPS t-shirts all over the Emory University campus during the State Summer Games weekend every spring. SOGA values our partnership with UPS and appreciates all that they do for the organization and the 27,110 registered athletes.



United Parcel Service, Inc. is a package delivery company and provides transportation, logistics, and financial services in the United States and internationally. Log on to www.ups.com to learn more about UPS.

Prizes Include: A 2 Night stay at the King & Prince Beach and Golf Resort, a 2 Night Cabin Rental in Blue Ridge, GA from Black Bear Cabin Rentals, Diamond Hoop Earrings, a QuikTrip Gift Card, and a Visa Gift Card.

ADOPT YOUR DUCK TODAY AT:
www.AtlantaDuckPluck.com.

Thank you to our sponsors Rooms To Go Foundation, Shaw Industries, Kids 'R' Kids Learning Academies, Whitaker Oil Company, Winter Companies, LAZ Parking, Risk Placement Services Inc., Highwoods Properties, Landmark at Creekside Grand, Dobbins Thrift Shoppe, Craig Automotive, and Dale Massey State Farm Insurance. Also, thank you to Post Apartment Homes.

The SOGA Community Makes a Difference

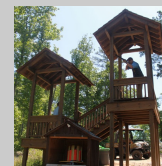
We often receive calls from individuals, companies, and groups who have an idea for a fundraiser and want to donate the proceeds to SOGA. Every single fundraising effort, no matter the financial outcome, is very significant and makes a tremendous difference. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the following:



- Church of the New Covenant's Concert With A Cause raised \$521.
- Sweetwater's Beneficial Brews Give Back raised \$213.

Shoot For Champions August 25

Please join us for the 2016 Shoot for Champions clay shoot at Foxhall Resort on August 25th. The day will include 15 stations of sporting clays, beautiful scenery, lunch, silent auction, and prizes. Please contact **Thomas Ritch** or 770-414-9390 x121 for more information, or [click here to sign up your team today!](#)



Fundraising Opportunities

Volunteers are needed to help identify and/or approach potential corporate sponsors and individual donors for State Games and fundraising events. This is an extremely important component to the success of these events. By generating new ideas and discovering new opportunities that can help us meet or exceed our revenue goals, you will make a vital contribution to SOGA. For more information, contact **Susan Skolnick** or 770-414-9390 x111.



Volunteer Opportunities



Forward to a Friend

We're fortunate to have you as part of the Special Olympics Georgia family. Our goal is to reach as many potential sponsors, volunteers and athletes as

State Summer Games
May 20-22
Atlanta

Volunteers are needed to help at

possible, so 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!



Tell Us Your Story

We want to tell your stories! Email [Susan Skolnick](#) with a story about a Special Olympics event or person who has inspired you! You can also [submit](#) your story online.



venues and be fans in the stands. To apply to volunteer, please [click here](#).

StateMasters Bowling
August 26-28
Warner Robins

State Horse Show
State Fall Games
October 7-9
Gainesville

If you are interested in volunteering for any of the opportunities above, please contact [Whitney Warren](#).

Promotions

There are currently several great ways to earn free money for SOGA athletes. If you have questions on any of these promotions, please contact [Susan Skolnick](#) or 770-414-9390 x111.

Vehicle Donations

Are you thinking of selling or trading in that old car, boat or RV?



Why not donate it instead? As a charitable contribution, your donation will make a big difference. SOGA has partnered with CARS to turn your old vehicle, whether it's running or not, into much needed funds for our program. 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 acknowledgment of your donation and tax deduction information.

[Click here for more information or to donate your vehicle](#), and a helpful representative will contact you within 24 hours to schedule a pickup, or you can call CARS seven days a week toll-free at 1-844-404-SOGA (7642) to speak with a representative.

Kroger Community Rewards®

Kroger Community Rewards® makes supporting Special Olympics Georgia 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

www.kroger.com/community_rewards, and in the Community Rewards section, select Special Olympics Georgia (code 57973) as the organization you wish to support. Once you're enrolled, you'll earn rewards for Special Olympics Georgia every time you shop and use your Plus Card, and you'll keep earning rewards/fuel points for yourself. **Enroll now for the Kroger Community Rewards Program** (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.

AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic



way for you to support SOGA every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection, and convenient

shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price back to SOGA. On your first visit to **AmazonSmile**, select Special Olympics Georgia to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Then, always shop Amazon through AmazonSmile, and every eligible purchase you make will result in a donation.

DialAmerica Magazine Subscriptions



DialAmerica will donate 10% of your paid magazine subscription to SOGA. To subscribe to a magazine, call 877-872-2362 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. or [click here](#).

Give Us Your Old Cell Phones

Looking for an EASY way to give back to your community &



support SOGA? Our Phone Bones project recycles old cell phones to raise funds for SOGA and helps our environment.

Other items that we recycle are empty toner/printer cartridges, laptops and iPods. In addition to turning in your own items, we can work with you to set up a collection at your business with your friends and family.

We'll send you a flyer to post, a collection box, and we'll even pay for shipping if you'll collect the items to be recycled! It's an easy way to give back to Special Olympics athletes across Georgia!! Contact [Whitney Warren](#) or 229-712-9973.

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www.SpecialOlympicsGA.org

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