



**Special Olympics**  
Georgia

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(Editor's Note: Reporters should contact Meghan Daves during the weekend at 864-680-7670.)

## **Anticipation Builds as the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Special Olympics Georgia State Summer Games Nears**

**(Atlanta, May 16, 2016)** On the track and fields and in the pool and gym, over 2,700 athletes, coaches and unified partners will compete in the annual Special Olympics Georgia (SOGA) State Summer Games May 20-22 at Emory University.

One of the most anticipated of SOGA's competitions, athletes participating in State Summer Games compete in aquatics, athletics, flag football, gymnastics, soccer, table tennis, tennis and volleyball. Athletes have trained for at least eight weeks prior to Summer Games, and they are ready and excited to go for the gold!

"We are thrilled to host the 28<sup>th</sup> Special Olympics Georgia State Summer Games starting May 20. The athletes and coaches dedicate much time and energy in preparation for the competition, and we look forward to having communities across Georgia come and show their support and fandom for these brave competitors," said SOGA CEO Georgia Milton-Sheats.

With the fervor and zeal growing, members of the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) and Special Olympics Georgia athletes across the state of Georgia have embarked in a 1,000-mile torch relay, leading up to the official opening of Summer Games with the "Flame of Hope" lighting the caldron at Opening Ceremony.

Opening Ceremony is scheduled for Friday evening, May 20, 2016 at Emory University's McDonough Field. The traditional Parade of Athletes will be led by Grand Marshal and retired Atlanta Falcon, Buddy Curry. The athletes will be escorted by LETR officers and members of the Georgia Swarm. Ken Rodriguez of Fox 5 TV will be returning as the Master of Ceremony.

The games are free and open to the public. Parking is free at Peavine Parking deck.

### **About Special Olympics Georgia (SOGA)**

**SOGA provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for 27,110 children and adults with intellectual disabilities. For more information visit [www.SpecialOlympicsGA.org](http://www.SpecialOlympicsGA.org).**

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