



---

# 2021 GEORGIA VIRTUAL **TRANSITION FAIR**

---





***Special  
Olympics  
Georgia***

Let me win, but if I cannot win,  
Let me be brave in the attempt!



# MISSION

The mission of Special Olympics Georgia is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympics-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.



# HISTORY



- Special Olympics was founded by Eunice Kennedy Shriver in 1968
- Special Olympics Georgia was chartered in 1970. The first event was held in Atlanta with over 500 athletes.
- One of the largest Special Olympics programs in North America
  - 26,620 athletes
  - 26 Olympic-type sports offered year round
  - 45,000 volunteers
  - 4 State Competitions and over 600 local and area competitions offered
  - Over 200 programs



# GENERAL INFORMATION



- Athlete Eligibility
  - Diagnosed with intellectual disability, cognitive delay, or developmental disability
  - Ages 8 and older
  - Ages 2-7 can participate in training through Young Athletes Program
  - Cleared by a medical professional every three years
- 3 Levels of Competition
  - Local, Area, State competitions held all over the State each year
- Types of competition – Individual, Team Sports, Unified Sports
- Athletes are divisioned in competitions by age → gender → ability







A message from Athlete and Global Messenger,  
Katy Wilson



# ***SPORTS OFFERED***

- Alpine Skiing
- Athletics
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Bocce
- Bowling
- Cycling
- Equestrian
- Flag Football
- Floor Hockey
- Golf
- Gymnastics
  - Artistic or Rhythmic
- Ice Skating
  - Figure or Speed
- Kayaking
- Powerlifting
- Roller Skating
- Sailing
- Snowboarding
- Soccer
- Softball
- Swimming
- Table Tennis
- Tennis
- Volleyball





# STATE GAMES

- Indoor Winter Games – January
  - Basketball, Bowling, Floor Hockey, Artistic Gymnastics, Powerlifting
- Summer Games – May
  - Athletics, Volleyball, Aquatics, Tennis, Table Tennis, Soccer, Flag Football, Rhythmic Gymnastics, Badminton
- Horse Show – May
  - Western Riding, English Equitation, Dressage, Showmanship, Horsemanship, Working Trail, Unified Drill
- Fall Games – October
  - Bocce, Softball, Golf





# ***BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION***

- The program transcends just sports competition. Special Olympics athletes are confident and independent. They have jobs, they make speeches, they live on their own, and they inspire others.
- **Physical:** Physical fitness along with increased coordination, cardiovascular fitness and endurance.
- **Mental:** Knowledge of rules and strategy along with increased self-esteem, self-confidence and pride.
- **Social:** Teamwork, interaction with peers and people without intellectual disabilities, opportunity to travel and learn about other places and interests, family pride, and increased community awareness and acceptance.



# COMMUNITY BENEFITS



# GETTING AND STAYING INVOLVED

## SOGA Map of Georgia Counties and Assigned Areas

### Program Services Managers:

**Kelli Bonner:** (Area's 2, 18) Senior Marketing & Program Manager

**Logan Gross:** (Area's 1, 3, 6) Program Manager

**Hannah Creasey:** (Area's 5, 9) Volunteer and Program Manager

**Rachel Kitchens:** (Area 10) UCS Program Manager

**Liz Smith:** (Area 4) Director of Program Services

**Courtney Payne:** (Area's 12, 14) Senior Volunteer and Program Manager

**Meredith Crum:** (Area's 7, 8, 11) Program Manager

**Stephanie Bailey:** (Area's 13, 16, 17) Program Manager

**David Crawford:** (Area 15) Chief Sports & Program Officer

To get or stay involved, please contact your respective Program Manager. They will be able to help you get connected with the program that is best for you. You can also view other programs in your area through the link below:

<https://www.specialolympicsga.org/become-an-athlete/find-a-program/>



# ***THANK YOU!!***

Thank you so much for getting involved with  
Special Olympics Georgia!



For more information, please contact a Program Manager in your area:  
<https://www.specialolympicsga.org/about/staff/>





# RESOURCES

## **Athlete Resources:**

Find a program in your area

<https://www.specialolympicsga.org/become-an-athlete/find-a-program/>

Become an athlete – Medical Packet

<https://www.specialolympicsga.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/SOGA-Medical-Packet-2020-Atlanta.pdf>

## **General Resources:**

Website

<https://www.specialolympicsga.org/>

Program Guide

<https://www.specialolympicsga.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2021-SOGA-Program-Guide-Updated.pdf>

Unified Sports:

<https://www.specialolympicsga.org/become-an-athlete/unified-sports/>

Transition Flyer:

<https://www.specialolympicsga.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Transition-Flyer-2021.pdf>

## **Get social with SOGA**



**Facebook**  
Special Olympics  
Georgia



**TikTok**  
Special Olympics  
Georgia



**Instagram**  
@specialolympicsgeorgia



**Twitter**  
@SOGAchampions



**LinkedIn**  
Special Olympics  
Georgia

