

**Georgia's  
Champions**

**April 2024**



**HELLO  
SPRING!**

**2024 DUCK PLUCK**

**Our Athletes want YOU to  
adopt a duck for this year's  
Duck Pluck!**

**(Click here to [ADOPT your duck](#)).**

**Special Olympics**  
Georgia



## 2024 STATE SUMMER GAMES MAY 24 – MAY 26 EMORY UNIVERSITY (ATLANTA)

### **Sports:**

Swimming	Athletics (Track & Field)
Gymnastics	Flag Football
Soccer	Table Tennis
Tennis	Volleyball
Cheerleading	

### **Donate:**

Contact Mary Thomason at (770) 414-9390 extension 1121

[Mary.Thomason@specialolympicsga.org](mailto:Mary.Thomason@specialolympicsga.org)

### **Who:**

2500 Athletes, Coaches and Unified Partners  
1000 Volunteers

### **Opening Ceremony: (Dance to follow)**

7:30 – 8:30 p.m., Friday, May 24<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 25<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

Mary Thomason, (770) 414-9390 ext. 1121

[Mary.Thomason@specialolympicsga.org](mailto:Mary.Thomason@specialolympicsga.org)

#### • To Volunteer

Click this link:

<http://sogeorgia.vsyshost.com>

Ansley Bonner, (229) 256-1323

[Ansley.Bonner@specialolympicsga.org](mailto:Ansley.Bonner@specialolympicsga.org)

#### • Law Enforcement Torch Run

Robert Yost, (229) 834-3434

[Robert.Yost@specialolympicsga.org](mailto:Robert.Yost@specialolympicsga.org)

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

**SAVE THE DATES**

**Georgia's  
Champions**

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS GEORGIA**

**2024 STATE  
SUMMER GAMES**

**MAY 24TH-25TH 2024**



**Sign up to be a  
2024 State  
Summer Games  
Volunteer!**

**Click the link to sign up: <https://bit.ly/48RRrhP>**

# SAVE THE DATES

# Georgia's Champions



## COPS ON DONUT SHOPS

Save the date, Friday, June 7th, 2024 from  
6 am- 10 am Join Law Enforcement Torch  
Run for the tastiest event of the year!



Special Olympics  
Georgia



# ADOPT A DUCK TODAY!

HELP SEND AN ATHLETE TO THE  
2024 SUMMER GAMES AND PURCHASE  
A DUCK TODAY!

<https://www.duckrace.com/atlanta>

With your help we are able to provide  
meals, housing, and equipment for  
Special Olympics Georgia Athletes



# SAVE THE DATES

# Georgia's Champions



## MEDFEST

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2024

9AM-2PM

6046 Financial Dr.  
Norcross, GA 30071

### OUR SERVICE

- Free Medical Screenings
- Basketball Skills
- Referrals/Resources

### CONTACT US

- (770) 414 - 9390 ext. 1111
- [jake.baxter@specialolympicsga.org](mailto:jake.baxter@specialolympicsga.org)

Dr. Powell / Dr. Carter



**Special  
Olympics**  
Georgia

AND

CENTER FOR  
**Leadership in Disability**  
Georgia Statewide Disability & Health Program

**SAVE THE DATES**

**Georgia's  
Champions**

30th Annual



**BOB BUSSE  
MEMORIAL  
CLASSIC**

Monday, November 11th, 2024

Country Club of Roswell  
2500 Club Springs Drive  
Roswell, GA 30076

For more information about participation or sponsorship, please contact Mary Thomason at [mary.thomason@specialolympicsga.org](mailto:mary.thomason@specialolympicsga.org) or (770) 414-9390 ext. 1121

**Golfers and Foursomes needed!**

**April 2024**

**Georgia's  
Champions**

# Become a part of Special Olympics Georgia!



**[www.youtube.com/SpecialOlympicsGeorgia](http://www.youtube.com/SpecialOlympicsGeorgia)**



**Knights of  
Columbus®**  
**Georgia  
State Council**

***For 20 years, Knights of Columbus Councils from around Georgia, have supported Special Olympics Georgia agencies and athletes through many ways. Whether it is selling burgers and hotdogs, presenting the colors at State Games Opening Ceremony's, fundraising within communities, speaking at State Games Opening Ceremony's, or sending large numbers of Knights of Columbus Council members to volunteer at the State Winter, Summer and Fall Games, their impact has continued to make Special Olympics Georgia athletes thrive.***

***As a Statewide Platinum Sponsor, the Knights of Columbus have a presence at all state events, and SOGA can always count on them to provide hard working volunteers for each event! Thank you, Knights of Columbus, for your continued support. SOGA is very excited to have you as a Statewide Platinum Sponsor, and we appreciate your hard work during every event. Your support in both monetary donations and the many volunteer service hours are very much appreciated, and we couldn't do what we do without your continuous support!***



**[www.kofc.org/en/](http://www.kofc.org/en/)**



## ATHLETE OF THE MONTH



**Mark H.**

***Mark H. is an amazing athlete and loves competing and being around the other athletes! Mark has been a Special Olympics Georgia athlete with Gwinnett Special Forces for several years, bringing great cheer to all who know him! Mark's favorite sport is Basketball and he loves participating in State Indoor Winter Games.***

***Mark has many friends among his teammates and is excited that his dad gets to serve as the Gwinnett Special Forces Local Coordinator. He is very focused during practice and competitions. Mark says the best thing he loves about being a Special Olympics Georgia athlete is having fun with his friends.***

## **VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH**



**Erin F.**

**Erin has been instrumental in the Cherokee County Special Olympics Program. She is their Kayak coach as well as the instructor of the Coaches' Kayaking Class. She played a very active role in creating the Cherokee County Kayak Invitational. She is athlete Caleb G.'s coach!**

**Cherokee County Special Olympics has registered more and more athletes. When Erin heard kayaks had to be rented for practices, she campaigned on the athletes' behalf, resulting in 6 kayaks being donated to the program. She has shown true commitment to the Special Olympics athletes across the state.**

# April 2024

# Georgia's Champions



**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 PROMOS



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.



**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. Questions or problems, contact Mary Thomason at [Mary.Thomason@specialolympicsga.org](mailto:Mary.Thomason@specialolympicsga.org)



**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!

