## Georgia's Champion

# 2024 State Summer Games

### May 24th - 26th Emory University





Presented By:

#### HONDA Honda USA Foundation

### May 2024

eorgia







<u>Georgia's</u> <u>Champions</u>

Special Olympics Georgia

### 2024 STATE SUMMER GAMES May 24 – May 26 Emory University (Atlanta)

#### Sports:

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

#### Donate:

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

#### **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

#### 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 Olympictype 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 Mary Thomason, (770) 414-9390 ext. 1121 Mary.Thomason@specialolympicsga.org

• To Volunteer

Click this link: http://sogeorgia.vsyshost.com Ansley Bonner, (229) 256-1323 Ansley.Bonner@specialolympicsga.org

• Law Enforcement Torch Run Robert Yost, (229) 834-3434 Robert.Yost@specialolympicsga.org

www.SpecialOlympicsGA.org

### PROFESSIONAL PICKLEBALL ASSOCIATION TOUR IN ATLANTA!

**Special Olympics** Georgia



#### VIZZY ATLANTA OPEN LIFETIME FITNESS

6350 COURTSIDE DRIVE NW PEACHTREE CORNERS, GA 30092 WEDNESDAY MAY 15, 2024

jeorgi

THE PPA IS HOSTING 3 EVENTS TO INCLUDE OUR SPECIAL OLYMPICS GEORGIA ATHLETES!

- PRO CLINIC WITH SKILLS & DRILLS TIME TBD
- PRO EXHIBITION GAMES TIME TBD
- PICKLEBALL FOR ALL DRIVEN BY CARVANA -4-6PM

PLEASE CONTACT LIZ SMITH IF INTERESTED LIZ.SMITH@SPECIALOLYMPICSGA.ORG

# <u>Georgia</u>





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















### 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



### <u>Georgia's</u> <u>Champions</u>

# MEDFEST

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2024 9AM-2PM

6046 Financial Dr. Norcross, GA 30071

#### **OUR SERVICE**

Free Athlete Medical Screenings

- Basketball Skills
- Referrals/Resources
- Lunch Provided

#### CONTACT US

(770) 414 - 9390 ext. 1111

jake.baxter@specialolympicsga.org



Dr. Powell / Dr. Carter

#### AND

CENTER FOR Leadership in Disability Georgia Statewide Disability & Health Program

### <u>Georgia's</u> <u>Champions</u>



# 30th Annual BOB BUSSE MEMORIAL CLASSIC

Georgia

### 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 or (770) 414-9390 ext. 1121

**Golfers and Foursomes needed!** 

# **MAY 2024**

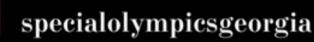




the accomplishments of our Athletes -the commitment of our Coaches -the unity of our Unified partners -the versatility of our Volunteers the support of our Sponsors and -the social media pages of **Special Olympics Georgia!** 



specialolympicsga





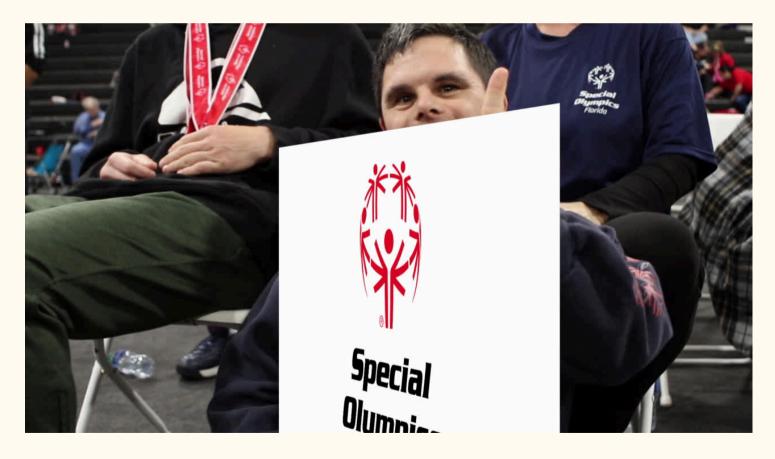
**SOGAchampions** 

specialolympicsgeorgia





# Become a part of Special Olympics Georgia!



www.youtube.com/SpecialOlympicsGeorgia

# **Sponsor Spotlight**





Dunwoody Country Club in Dunwoody, Georgia has a "Tradition of Giving" back to the community. Over the years, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been donated through their Charity Weekend. This will be the 34th year the club members will hugely support great children's charities. Each year, Special Olympics Georgia is honored to be selected as a charity partner of the Charity Weekend. Dunwoody Country Club also hosts an annual Special Olympics Georgia Tennis Fun Day. This event is so much fun for participating athletes. The club provides tennis instruction, games, other fun activities, and lunch. Thank you Dunwoody Country Club for always supporting Georgia's Champions!





https://dunwoodycc.org/



### **ATHLETE OF THE MONTH**



#### Julie D.

Julie is a Special Olympics Georgia athlete with the Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks & Recreation Authority. She first got involved in Special Olympics Georgia in 2009 when she competed in Swimming at the Summer Games. She then added Gymnastics in 2010 and competed in both sports from 2010-2012 where she won gold! She then decided to "hang up my grips" after the January 2022 Winter Games. She now competes in Basketball 3 on 3 at the Indoor State Winter Games since 2023 as well as Soccer at State Summer Games, Golf at State Fall Games. She loves Special Olympics Georgia because they have given her many opportunities.

Being selected to represent Georgia and the USA in the 2015 World Games was a dream come true and one of her favorite memories. She won gold in Vault and Silver in Floor, Beam and Bars and All Around in Gymnastics. She was selected to represent Georgia in Washington D.C. for Capital Hill Day and had the opportunity to go to the Georgia State Capital and meet the Governor in 2015 and 2016. She said, "The best part about Special Olympics Georgia is meeting new friends in Valdosta and all over Georgia. It is my social life!! I love it, as well as all of the people." State Summer Games 2024 she will be competing in Soccer Team Play. She cannot wait to see everyone there and good luck SOGA Team!

### <u>Georgia's</u> <u>Champions</u>

### **VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH**



#### Marie S.

With almost 40 years of experience, Marie started her SOGA career in the school system before transitioning into helping with several different programs in Area 14. She has assisted with and led numerous Special Olympics programs. She has been the Local Coordinator for Albany Parks & Recreation since the inception of their program in 2007. She even had a stint working for SOGA as the Area 14 Program Manager. Marie never misses an event, practice, competition, or State Games that her athletes are participating in. Her sports of choice would undoubtedly be Volleyball and Bocce. Marie was one of the first people in the state to pioneer the use of the portable PVC pipe bocce fields, she even has her own court in her backyard. The lasting impression and the lives she has touched in her tenure with SOGA is amazing! Marie truly embodies what it means to be a coach, volunteer, local coordinator, chaperone, and an all-around wonderful mentor.





https://www.specialolympicsga.or g/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

Thank you to agency treasurers for the hard work and timely financial submissions!



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 enewsletter to your friends and family so they can sign up to also receive the monthly e-newsletter!

