

Georgia's Champions

May 2024



2024 State Summer Games

May 24th - 26th
Emory University



**Special
Olympics**
Georgia

Presented By:

HONDA
Honda USA Foundation



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

Who:

2500 Athletes, Coaches and Unified Partners
1000 Volunteers

Opening Ceremony: (Dance to follow)

7:30 – 8:30 p.m., Friday, May 24th

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 25th

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 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

• 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

SAVE THE DATES

Georgia's Champions

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**

**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



SAVE THE DATES

Georgia's Champions

Come Out To Support!



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!



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 Athlete Medical Screenings
- ✔ Basketball Skills
- ✔ Referrals/Resources
- ✔ Lunch Provided

CONTACT US

(770) 414 - 9390 ext. 1111

jake.baxter@specialolympicsga.org

Dr. Powell / Dr. Carter



**Special
Olympics**
Georgia

AND

CENTER FOR
Leadership in Disability
Georgia Statewide Disability & Health Program



Special Olympics Georgia Regional Open Golf Tournaments Signup

Under the direction of Dave Davis, a state-certified
Special Olympics Golf Coach

Open to Special Olympians statewide

Two Open Regional Tournaments:

* March 25th at University of Georgia Golf Course (UGA)
2600 Riverbend Rd, Athens, Ga

* September 20 at Lake Arrowhead Yacht & Country Club
Waleska, Ga.

Choose Level:

Level I—Six Skills Competition _____

Level II—9 Holes Alternate Stroke w partner _____

Level III—18 Hole Alternate Stroke w partner _____

Level IV—9 Hole Individual Stroke Play _____

Level V—18 Hole Individual Stroke Play _____



The Kathy B. Davis
Foundation

Registration

Athlete _____

Unified Partner _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Address _____

I would like to sign up for:
March 25th UGA SO Tournament _____

I would like to sign up for:
Sept. 20 SO Tournament _____

In signing this agreement I,
_____,
the athlete, parent/guardian, am solely
responsible for any legal liability,
waiving all claims from injuries,
damages, or losses I may sustain as the
result of participating in this event
and hold harmless The KBD Founda-
tion, its volunteers, coaches, sponsors,
participants and venues involved with
the Tournament. I also understand
that photos of participants may be
taken and used in articles and KBDF
media.

SIGNED: _____

DATED: _____

Please return the completed form to
The KBD Foundation
c/o Dave Davis
315 Lakewood Drive
Waleska, GA 30183

For additional information, contact:
Dave Davis
(615)533-0668
ddavis@kbfoundation.net

[Click to Register!](#)

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 or (770) 414-9390 ext. 1121

Golfers and Foursomes needed!

FOLLOW:

- 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



specialolympicsgeorgia



SOGAchampions



specialolympicsgeorgia

May 2024

Georgia's
Champions

Become a part of Special Olympics Georgia!



www.youtube.com/SpecialOlympicsGeorgia



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!

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.

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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.

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



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



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

