

***Georgia's
Champions***

December 2024

Happy Holidays!



SIGN THE CARD

This holiday season, we aim to send 5,000 warm wishes to our amazing Special Olympics Georgia athletes for our holiday card.

Will you help us reach our goal? Sign the card now to show Georgia athletes how much you care!

December 2024

Georgia's Champions



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2024 STATE FALL GAMES SPONSORS



thanks
for your
support

2024 State Fall Games



2024 STATE FALL GAMES RECAP



SPORTS COMPETED AT STATE FALL GAMES:
BOCCE, GOLF, SOFTBALL PLAY, SOFTBALL SKILLS, AND
CYCLING

MEDAL COUNT AT STATE FALL GAMES



4TH PLACE: 84

5TH PLACE: 1



**CLICK [HERE](#) TO WITNESS ALL THE FUN
FROM THE 2024 #STATEFALLGAMES!**

2025 EVENTS & STATE GAMES

1/10-19

PUBLIX LIGHT THE TORCH CAMPAIGN

1/31-2/1

STATE INDOOR WINTER GAMES

2/22

POLAR PLUNGE

5/16-18

STATE SUMMER GAMES

10/17-18

STATE FALL GAMES



SAVE THE DATES

Georgia's
Champions



ATLANTA GLADIATORS VS. JACKSONVILLE ICEMEN

TEDDY BEAR TOSS EVENT

DECEMBER 13, 2024 @ 7:30 PM
GAS SOUTH ARENA, DULUTH, GA

**BE A PART OF THE TRADITION TO THROW
YOUR TEDDY BEARS ON THE ICE AS THE
GLADIATORS SUPPORT SOGA!**

[CLICK HERE FOR TICKETS!](#)

SAVE THE DATES

Georgia's Champions

2025 STATE INDOOR WINTER GAMES

VOLUNTEERS *Needed*

We need volunteers for a variety of jobs at our 2025 State Indoor Winter Games! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact David Crawford at David.Crawford@specialolympicsga.org or (229) 292-5143

**JANUARY 31ST-
FEBRUARY 1ST, 2025**



CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP NOW!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT
[HTTPS://WWW.SPECIALOLYMPICSGA.ORG](https://www.specialolympicsga.org) OR
CONTACT DAVID CRAWFORD AT
DAVID.CRAWFORD@SPECIALOLYMPICSGA.ORG**



SAVE THE DATES

Georgia's
Champions

2025 POLAR PLUNGE



**SCAN TO TAKE THE
PLUNGE OR
CREATE/JOIN A
TEAM**



**SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 22, 2025
AT ACWORTH BEACH**

**WANT TO TAKE THE PLUNGE WITH
YOUR TEAM OR PARTICIPATE
IN TUG-OF-WAR?**

CONTACT

**MEREDITH-ELIZABETH CRUM
AT MEC@SPECIALOLYMPICSGA.ORG**

Click here to plunge with us!

December 2024

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Thank You to Our Incredible Bob Busse Golf Classic Sponsors!

We are deeply grateful to all the sponsors who made the Bob Busse Golf Classic on November 11 a tremendous success. Your generosity and support were instrumental in creating an unforgettable day for everyone involved. A special thank you to those who joined us on the course and played a round of golf to support our athletes. Your participation and enthusiasm truly brought the event to life and showcased the power of community in action. Thanks to you, we are able to continue providing meaningful opportunities and experiences for our athletes. Your commitment to our mission is truly inspiring, and we couldn't do what we do without partners like you. From all of us at Special Olympics Georgia, thank you for being a part of this incredible event. Together, we are making a difference!



**Thank you to all of our sponsors of
The 29th Annual Bob Busse Memorial Golf Classic!**

Presenting Sponsor



Platinum Sponsor



Breakfast Sponsor



Gold Sponsors



The DeGuire Family

Golf Cart Sponsor



Holland & Knight

SIGNATURE FD

Silver Sponsors



**UNITED CAPITAL
FINANCIAL ADVISORS**



**The John Weber
Family**

**The Doug Justice
Family**

**The Ben Deutsch
Family**

**The Gerald J Gilbert
Family**



Sponsor Testimonial: Brock Built

“BrockBuilt was honored to serve as the Golf Cart Sponsor for the 2024 Bob Busse Golf Classic benefiting Special Olympics Georgia. We are proud to support such a meaningful event that celebrates the abilities of athletes with intellectual disabilities. This partnership reflects our dedication to giving back and making a positive impact in the community. We are grateful to have been a part of this incredible day and look forward to continuing our support of Special Olympics Georgia’s inspiring mission.”

HEALTH MESSENGER

Global and Health Messenger, Athlete Erin H., shares some yoga poses and beneficial stretches to promote healthy habits! Erin challenges you to follow along! What an awesome wind-down after a long day! Be sure to practice proper breathing and posture. This helps with flexibility and getting oxygen to your muscles.



2024 State Fall Games Healthy Athletes Recap

Special
Olympics
**Healthy
Athletes®**



Fall Games in Valdosta Georgia was a hit! Healthy Athletes had Healthy Hearing and Strong Mind screenings. Healthy Athletes started with 30 Strong Mind screenings on Friday night and completed over 50 more on Saturday. As for Healthy hearing we were able to get in 34 screenings on Saturday. There was a total of 116 screenings between the two Healthy Athletes disciplines. We would like to give a big thank you to Strong Mind's Clinical Director Dr. Carli

Joiner, Clinical Director of Healthy Hearing Dr. Lauren Obstarcyk , Dr. Sarah Jones, and other volunteers for conducting the screenings. SOGA would also like to thank Ellen Lopez and volunteers from Georgia State University's Center for Leadership in Disability, Georgia Statewide Disability and Health project for providing post screening resources. Although it may have been chilly out, SOGA had a wonderful time with all of our athletes and volunteers at Healthy Athletes in Olympic Town. We are looking forward to our next screenings at Winter games happening on Friday, January 31, 2025 and Saturday, February 1, 2025.

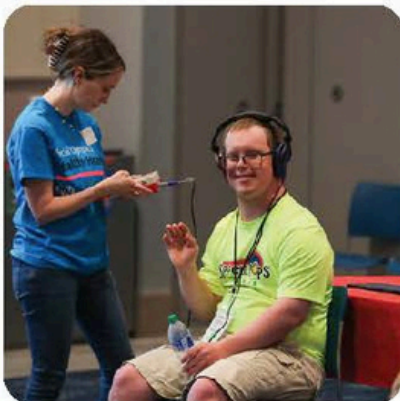
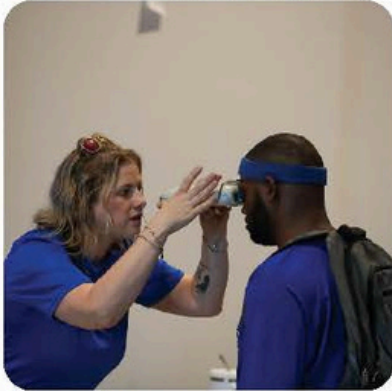


Health
is wealth

Medical Volunteers Needed



Special Olympics Georgia (SOGA) is seeking additional healthcare professionals and students to join our medical volunteer team, assisting with health screenings across various counties in Georgia.



For more information contact:

Leksi Whatley

Health and Wellness Manager

Leksi.Whatley@SpecialOlympicsGA.org

(770)414-9390 Ext. 1111

Special Olympics
Georgia





Thank you to Owens & Minor for their unwavering commitment to our 18,546 athletes and their families since 2022! Owen & Minor's continuous support at our State Fall Games Softball venues and State Summer Games has been a cornerstone of the event's success. Their commitment has allowed our athletes to shine, fostering a sense of community and accomplishment. Their contributions have made an immeasurable impact, helping create life-changing experiences for our athletes, families, and volunteers alike. We are thankful for the support from Owen's & Minor that exemplifies the spirit of inclusion and empowerment that drives Special Olympics. Thank you, Owen's & Minor, for being such a vital part of our mission!



<https://www.owens-minor.com/>

2025 SHOOT FOR CHAMPIONS

Please join us for our 10th, Annual Shoot for Champions sporting clays tournament benefiting Special Olympics Georgia and the 18,546 athletes from across the State of Georgia. This event will be held at the beautiful Garland Mountain Sporting Clays, located atop Garland Mountain overlooking Waleska, Georgia (Just 50 miles from Atlanta), on August 22nd, 2025.

2025 SHOOT FOR CHAMPIONS

BENEFITING
SPECIAL OLYMPICS GEORGIA

Please join us for our 10th, Annual Shoot for Champions sporting clays tournament benefiting Special Olympics Georgia and the 18,546 athletes from across the State of Georgia. This event will be held at the beautiful Garland Mountain Sporting Clays, located atop Garland Mountain overlooking Waleska, Georgia (Just 50 miles from Atlanta), on August 22nd, 2025.

This event will feature a round of clays at 12 picturesque stations, breakfast, a lunch reception, the opportunity to participate in games, with prizes, shooter gifts, and a silent auction featuring many unique items.

The money raised during this event will help send athletes to the State Games.



Special Olympics
Georgia



8:30 a.m. Registration/Breakfast
9:45 a.m. Sponsor Welcome & Safety Briefing
10:00 a.m. Start Time
12:45 p.m. Athlete Speaker, Lunch, Awards,
Great Prizes & Silent Auction

To sign up today email:
Hadley.Shore@specialolympicsga.org

AVAILABLE SPONSORSHIPS

www.specialolympicsga.org

Presenting Sponsor - \$10,000

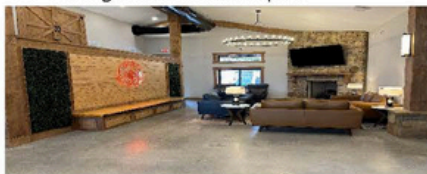
- Three Shooting Teams of Four w/ Three Carts
- Two Title Sponsor Banners with Logo at Event Registration Lodge
- Recognition in all Media Releases and Social Media (Facebook, X, Website, Printed Materials, Press Releases)
- Sponsor Remarks, Recognition at Award Ceremony, and Opportunity to Speak at Closing Ceremony
- Recognition on Save The Date Flyer
- Opportunity to place information or give a way item in Shooter Bags
- Logo on Event Page on SOGA Website
- Signage at Three Shooting Stations
- Listing in SOGA Annual Report

Title Sponsor - \$7,500

- Two Shooting Teams of Four w/ Two Carts
- Title Sponsor Banner with Logo at Event Registration Lodge
- Recognition in all Media Releases and Social Media (Facebook, X, Website, Printed Materials, Press Releases)
- Sponsor Remarks, Recognition at Award Ceremony
- Logo on Event Page on SOGA Website
- Signage at Three Shooting Stations
- Listing in SOGA Annual Report

Sharpshooter Sponsor - \$3,500

- One Shooting Team of Four w/ Cart
- Sponsor Signage with Logo at Registration
- Recognition in Press Releases
- Logo on Event Page on SOGA Website
- Signage at Long Bird Station or Wild Bird Station
- Signage at One Shooting Stations
- Listing in SOGA Annual Report



Sharpshooter Sponsor - \$3,500

- One Shooting Team of Four w/ Cart
- Sponsor Signage with Logo at Registration
- Recognition in Press Releases
- Logo on Event Page on SOGA Website
- Signage at Long Bird Station or Wild Bird Station
- Signage at One Shooting Stations
- Listing in SOGA Annual Report

Ammo Sponsor - \$3,000

- One Shooting Team of Four w/ Cart
- Sponsor Signage with Logo at Registration
- Logo on Event Page on SOGA Website
- Signage at Two Shooting Stations
- Listing in SOGA Annual Report

Lunch/Breakfast Sponsor - \$5,000

- Sponsor Remarks at Lunch
- One Shooting Team of Four w/ Cart
- Sponsor Signage with Logo at Registration
- Recognition in Press Releases
- Logo on Event Page on SOGA Website
- Signage at Long Bird Station or Wild Bird Station
- Signage at Breakfast
- Signage at One Shooting Stations
- Listing in SOGA Annual Report

Long/Wild Bird Sponsor - \$2,000

- One Shooting Team of Four w/ Cart
- Signage at Long Bird Station or Wild Bird Station
- Signage at Breakfast
- Signage at One Shooting Stations
- Listing in SOGA Annual Report

One Shooting Team- \$1,700

- One Shooting Team of Four
- Listing in SOGA Annual Report

Station Sponsor - \$1,000

- Two shooting Spots with Cart
- Recognition on SponsorBoard
- Signage at One Shooting Station
- Listing in SOGA Annual Report

Individual Sponsor - \$450

- One Shooting Spot

For more information about sponsorship opportunities and to register, contact: Hadley at 770-414-9390 X 1105
hadley.shore@specialolympicsga.org

ATHLETE OF THE MONTH



Shelby Y.

Shelby was 8 years old when she started in Special Olympics, and 22 years later, she is still very involved. Swimming is her favorite sport, she is on the Dalton Sea Dragons swim team. She has also participated in bowling and cheerleading. She looks forward to the Summer Games every year, especially the dance party after the opening ceremony. In her free time, Shelby loves to dance to her favorite music, color, and make bracelets. Shelby always has a smile on her face and is always kind to everyone she meets.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



Knights Of Columbus Council 6622

This group has been a dedicated volunteer group for our many events, they continuously sponsor any chance they can and donate whenever they can. The Knights Of Columbus group is led by Grand Knight - Tom Lanyi. There are 3 local bowling events every year where they cover close to 20 lanes for each one. It is such a big help to have a dependable group willing to give their time to help with our events.

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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!

