

***Georgia's
Champions***

April 2025



**HELLO
SPRING!**

2025 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 WORLD WINTER GAMES RECAP!



OUR SOGA ATHLETES SHINED AT THE 2025 WINTER WORLD GAMES IN TURIN, ITALY! JAYDA, JEREMIAH, AND COLE REPRESENTED SO USA IN ALPINE SKIING, COMPETING IN MULTIPLE NOVICE AND INTERMEDIATE EVENTS. COMBINED, THEY BROUGHT HOME 2 GOLD, 2 BRONZE, 2 4TH PLACE, 1 5TH PLACE, AND 1 6TH PLACE AND SOGA IS SO PROUD OF THE ATHLETES! A BIG SHOUTOUT TO THE SOGA COACH MITCHELL FOR HELPING THESE ATHLETES SUCCEED.

Read the full bios and learn more by visiting SpecialOlympicsUSA.org!
[#Cheer4USA](#) | [#Turin2025](#)

THANK YOU TO MEDFEST VOLUNTEERS

*Thank
You*

A big thank you to everyone who participated in MedFest on March 7th! Your support and dedication played a crucial role in making the event a success, with 47 athletes completing their physicals.

We'd also like to extend a special thank you to Dr. LaRonda Ward whose expertise and commitment made it all possible. Your time and effort in providing essential screenings for our athletes are truly appreciated.

SOGA is grateful for everyone who contributed to making this event a meaningful experience and look forward to future opportunities to continue serving the Special Olympics Georgia community.



SAVE THE DATES

2025 EVENTS & STATE GAMES

3/07

MEDFEST

5/16-18

STATE SUMMER GAMES

8/22

CLAY SHOOT FOR CHAMPIONS

9/17

DUCK PLUCK

10/17-18

STATE FALL GAMES

11/10

BOB BUSSE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Special Olympics
Georgia



ESTATE PLANNING



Care for your loved ones:

**Get free resources to assist
with your estate planning**

DOWNLOAD THE RESOURCES

START PLANNING FOR YOUR LOVED ONE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS. TAKE A MOMENT TO UPDATE YOUR BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS. IT'S AN OFTEN OVERLOOKED TASK, BUT CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE TO THE ONES YOU LOVE. [CLICK HERE](#) TO READ MORE!

2025 STATE SUMMER GAMES VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

**2025 SUMMER STATE GAMES @ EMORY UNIVERSITY
MAY 16-18, 2025**




We need volunteers for a variety of jobs at our 2025 Summer State Games. Look below to contact Leksi Whatley for more information or scan/ click below.



CLICK HERE



Contact us to learn more!

-  (770) 414-9390 Ext. 1111
-  Leksi.Whatley@SpecialOlympicsGA.org
-  <https://www.specialolympicsga.org>



2025 STATE SUMMER GAMES FACT SHEET

2025 STATE SUMMER GAMES MAY 16 – MAY 18 EMORY UNIVERSITY (ATLANTA)

Sports:

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

Donate:

Contact Alexander Grainger at (770) 414-9390 extension 1113

Alexander.Grainger@specialolympicsga.org

Who:

2500 Athletes, Coaches and Unified Partners
1000 Volunteers

Opening Ceremony: (Dance to follow)

7:30 – 8:30 p.m., Friday, May 16th

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 17th

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

Alexander Grainger at (770) 414-9390 ext. 1113

Alexander.Grainger@specialolympicsga.org

• To Volunteer

Click this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4DA-EA62FA2FBCF8-51526434-special#/>

Leksi Whatley, (770) 414-9390 ext. 1111

Leksi.Whatley@specialolympicsga.org

• Law Enforcement Torch Run

Robert Yost, (229) 834-3434

Robert.Yost@specialolympicsga.org

www.SpecialOlympicsGA.org

HEALTHY ATHLETES AT THE 2025 STATE SUMMER GAMES



SUMMER STATE GAMES HEALTHY ATHLETES:



EMORY PLAZA & STUDENT CENTER
SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025
09:00 AM - 02:00 PM

About Healthy Athletes

Athletes can receive free screenings from Fit Feet, Healthy Hearing, Opening Eyes, Special Smiles, and Strong Minds for free. At the Plaza or inside the Student Center. Athletes who participate will receive free screenings, referrals & follow ups, giveaways and a chance to win a Fitbit! **Must attend 3 or more to enter the Fitbit drawing.**



Event Highlights

Fit Feet



Healthy Hearing



Opening Eyes



Special Smiles



Strong Minds



Contact Us

(770) 414-9390 Ext. 1111

Leksi.Whatlev@SpecialOlympicsGA.org

April 2025

GEORGIA'S CHAMPIONS

OLYMPIC TOWN AT THE 2025 STATE SUMMER GAMES

☆ ☆
SUMMER GAMES

OLYMPIC TOWN

Join the fun at Olympic Town and connect with Special Olympics athletes! Host a booth and be part of an exciting experience filled with games, activities, and smiles. It's a great way to engage with the community and make a lasting impact

Saturday, May 17th @ Emory University

MORE INFORMATION

✉ alexander.grainger@specialolympicsga.org

☎ (770) 414-9390 ext. 1113



April 2025

GEORGIA'S CHAMPIONS

HEALTHY ATHLETES

HEALTHY ATHLETES AT YOUR LOCAL COMPETITION



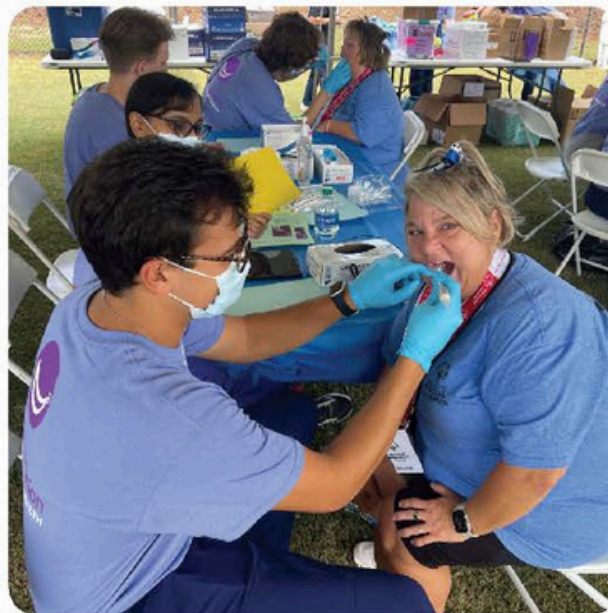
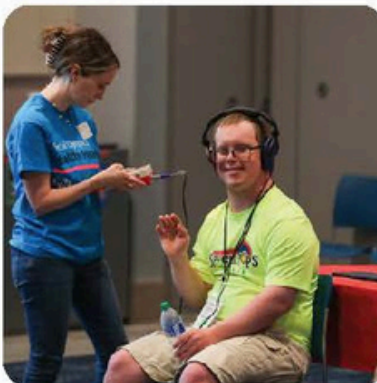
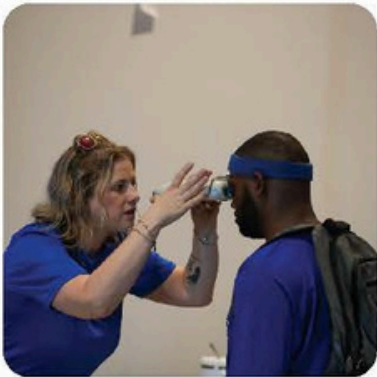
Special Olympics Georgia wants to bring Healthy Athletes to you!

If you would like to host Healthy Athletes screenings at your local competition,
please contact Leksi Whatley, leksi.whatley@specialolympicsga.org

CLINICAL 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



2025 SHOOT FOR CHAMPIONS

11th annual
**SHOOT
FOR
CHAMPIONS**

**SPECIAL
OLYMPICS
GEORGIA
PRESENTS:**

Get ready for an
exhilarating
experience as we
invite you to beautiful
Garland Mountain as
we fundraise for our
Special Olympic
Georgia athletes!

**FRIDAY
AUGUST 22**
**AT GARLAND MOUNTAIN
SPORTING CLAYS & GRILL**

SPONSORSHIPS VARY

Secure your spot by visiting:
[HTTPS://CHARITY.PLEDGEIT.ORG/C/WMOS6AGZ6A](https://charity.pledgeit.org/c/wmos6agz6a)

Contact Hadley Shore:
hadley.shore@specialolympicsga.org
770-414-9390 ext. 1105
for more information

April 2025

GEORGIA'S CHAMPIONS

THE 30TH ANNUAL BOB BUSSE MEMORIAL GOLF CLASSIC

Special Olympics
Georgia



Special Olympics Georgia Presents

THE 30TH ANNUAL BOB BUSSE MEMORIAL GOLF CLASSIC

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH

Country Club of Roswell

2500 Club Springs Dr.

Roswell, GA 30076

8 AM - 4 PM

CLICK
HERE FOR
MORE
INFO



Contact Alexander Grainger
(770) 414-9390 EXT. 1113
[ALEXANDER.GRAINGER@SP
ECIALOLYMPICSGA.ORG](mailto:ALEXANDER.GRAINGER@SPECIALOLYMPICSGA.ORG)



ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Olivia is an all-around athlete who is engaged in every sport on her team every week, every season: bowling, basketball, swimming, and bocce ball. This is her first year with Harris County Champs and she instantly won a medal at the local swim competition during Summer 2024 and won a Bronze medal at State games for bowling in January 2025. She took to bocce ball in an instant knocking out her competition. Olivia received special acknowledgement and was celebrated by her school, Harris County High School. She exemplifies the motto "let me be brave in the attempt" by always doing her best and not giving up. Her love for sports and her friends is evident at every practice and competition as she follows her coach's instructions and engages with her friends giving them kind words of encouragement, lots of smiles and high fives. The whole team loves Olivia and she's a true Harris County "Champ"-ion for Special Olympics.

OLIVIA G.



VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH



The Band of Misfits

State Indoor Winter Games

We are beyond excited to announce that the Band of Misfits is our Volunteers of the Month! This incredible group has shown unwavering dedication, energy, and enthusiasm, particularly during the Opening Ceremony at this past Indoor Winter State Games. Their infectious excitement helped set the tone for the entire event, ensuring that every participant had a blast. From setting up to supporting athletes behind the scenes, their teamwork and positive spirit were key to making the State Games a rock-n-rolling success.

The Band of Misfits made their debut in July 2017, with their first performance at the SOGA Winter Games in January 2018. Since then, they've rocked every Winter Games performance, except for covid year. With 7 dedicated members, this group continues to bring their A-game to every event. Their passion for Winter Games is unmatched, and they truly LOVE being a part of it every year. Thank you, Band of Misfits, for your outstanding contributions — Special Olympics Georgia is lucky to have you!

SPONSORSHIP SPOTLIGHT



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

FOR OVER 25 YEARS, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCILS FROM AROUND GEORGIA, HAVE SUPPORTED SPECIAL OLYMPICS GEORGIA AGENCIES AND ATHLETES IN MANY WAYS. WHETHER IT IS COOKING HAMBURGERS AND HOTDOGS AT LOCAL PROGRAM GAMES, PRESENTING THE COLORS AT STATE GAMES OPENING CEREMONIES, FUNDRAISING WITHIN COMMUNITIES, SPEAKING AT STATE GAMES OPENING CEREMONIES, OR SENDING LARGE NUMBERS OF KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL MEMBERS TO VOLUNTEER AT THE STATE WINTER, SUMMER, FALL GAMES, AND SPECIAL EVENTS. 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. THANK YOU, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT. SOGA IS VERY EXCITED TO HAVE YOU AS A STATEWIDE PLATINUM SPONSOR. 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!



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

CALLING COACHES AND UNIFIED PARTNERS



**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 PROMOTIONALS



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.



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!

