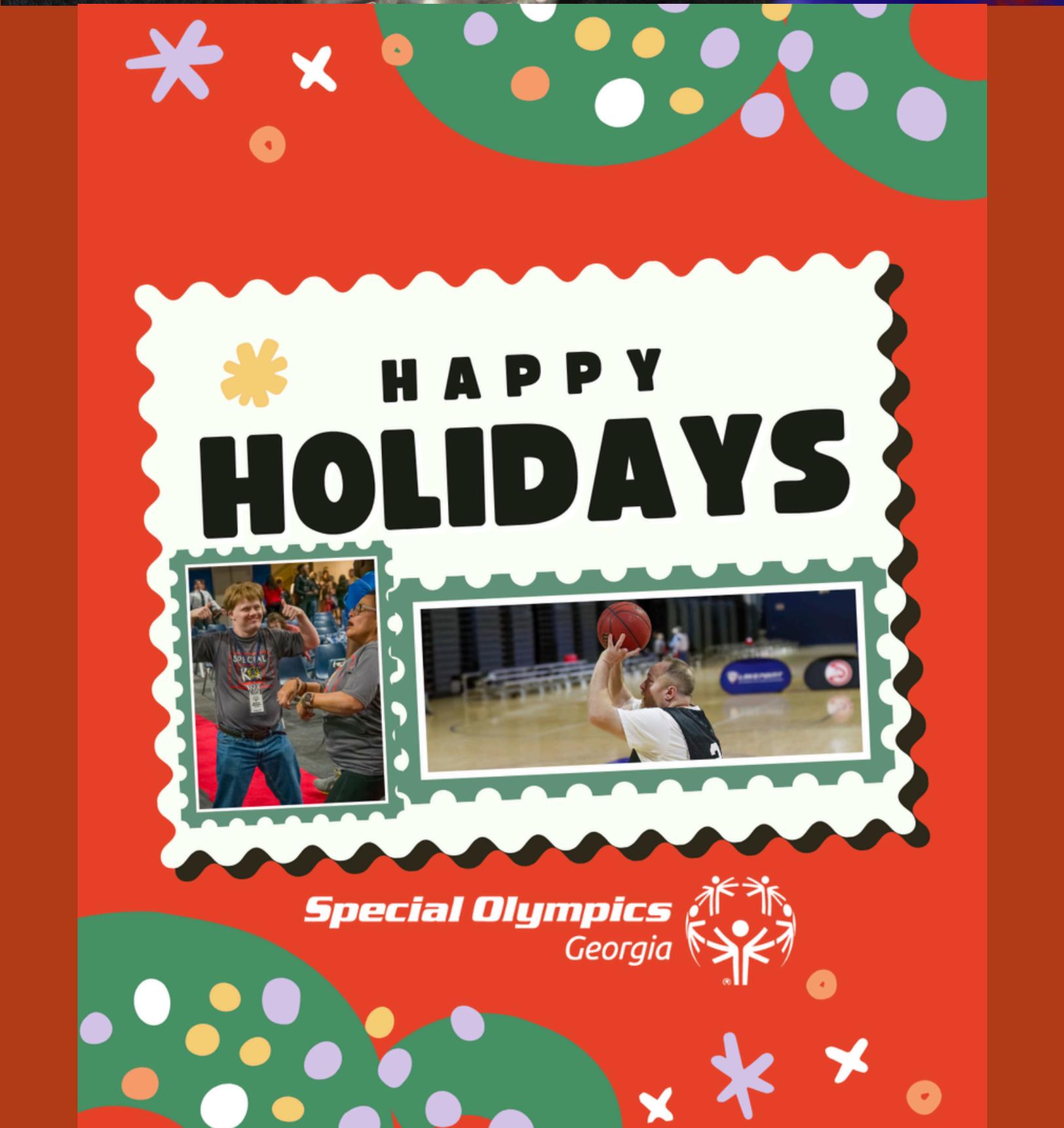


A close-up photograph of several medals and a blue ribbon. The ribbon has the text "Special Olympics Georgia" printed on it. The medals are gold and silver, with intricate designs.

Georgia's Champions

December 2025

The background is a vibrant red with festive green circular patterns containing white, yellow, and purple confetti. There are also white star and cross symbols scattered throughout.

 **HAPPY
HOLIDAYS**



Special Olympics
Georgia



PUBLIX SUPER MARKETS' "LIGHT THE TORCH" CAMPAIGN 2026

SUPPORTING DREAMS

Your gift makes a difference.

For over 40 years, Publix and P&G have been committed to supporting Special Olympics and its athletes. Purchase a torch at checkout to support our mission.



**SUPPORT
SPECIAL
OLYMPICS
GEORGIA
WHEN YOU
SHOP AT
Publix.**

**Torch Icon Campaign
January 9-16, 2026**

"Light the Torch" with Publix Super Markets, January 9th–January 16th, 2026. Publix has long been a dedicated partner of the Special Olympics, supporting its initiatives to promote inclusion and empowerment for individuals with intellectual disabilities. One notable aspect of this partnership is Publix's involvement in fundraising campaigns, including the Special Olympics Torch Campaign. Stop in at your local Publix in January and make a donation at a cash register.

SAVE THE DATES

2026 EVENTS & STATE GAMES

1/30-31

STATE INDOOR WINTER GAMES

2/21

2026 POLAR PLUNGE

8/7

CLAY SHOOT FOR CHAMPIONS

9/23

DUCK PLUCK

10/16-17

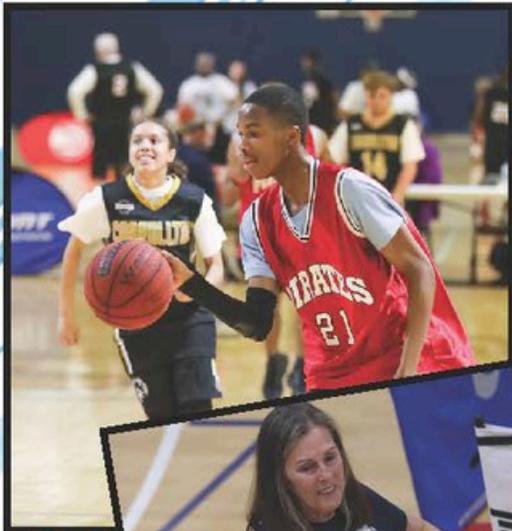
STATE FALL GAMES

10/26

BOB BUSSE GOLF TOURNAMENT

2026 INDOOR WINTER GAMES VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers Needed for the 2026 State Indoor Winter Games



January 30th and
31st, 2026 in
Marietta and
Cartersville area.



Special Olympics Georgia
needs volunteers for a variety
of jobs at our 2026 State
Indoor Winter Games!

SIGN UP



Contact us to learn more!



(770) 414-9390 Ext. 1111



Leksi.Whatley@SpecialOlympicsGA.org



<https://www.specialolympicsga.org>

SAVE THE DATE

Registration for the 2026 Polar Plunge is open!!!

[Go to PolarPlungeGA.org to register](http://PolarPlungeGA.org)

Get your face painted for free!



Tug-O-War!

Costume Contest!

Want to sponsor, be a vendor, or have a question?

Contact Conner King at Conner.King@SpecialOlympicsGA.org or 770-414-9390 ext 1103

2026
LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN
POLAR PLUNGE



FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS GEORGIA

February 21, 2025

Hamburgers and hotdogs for sale from the Knights of Columbus!!

ACTIVITIES!

- Registration: 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM
- Vendors: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- Tug-o-War: 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM
- Plunge & Awards: 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM



THANK YOU TO SPONSORS OF THE 2025 BOB BUSSE MEMORIAL GOLF CLASSIC



The 30th Annual Bob Busse Memorial Golf Classic

Presented by:



T Mobile
FOUNDATION

The DeGuire Family



Chris Burnett

Holland & Knight

SIGNATURE FD



Aprio



Empire
HOMES

MILLER ZELL

SouthState

MATTHEWS
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT SERVICES



AZCO
RESTORATION PLUS

**John Brewer Family • The Ben Deutsch Family • The Doug Justice Family
The Daniel Levison Family • The Sheats Family • The John Weber Family**

THE 30TH ANNUAL BOB BUSSE MEMORIAL CLASSIC WAS AN EXCEPTIONAL AND MEMORABLE DAY. WE EXTEND OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION TO THE COUNTRY CLUB OF ROSWELL FOR GRACIOUSLY HOSTING US FOR THE FOURTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR. WE ARE ESPECIALLY GRATEFUL TO OUR SPONSORS, WHOSE GENEROUS COMMITMENT PLAYED A VITAL ROLE IN THE SUCCESS OF THIS EVENT. WE ALSO THANK OUR GOLFERS AND VOLUNTEERS, WHOSE ENTHUSIASM AND SUPPORT BROUGHT EXTRAORDINARY ENERGY AND HELPED MAKE THIS YEAR'S CLASSIC TRULY REMARKABLE.

PLAN TO ATTEND THE NEXT TOURNAMENT ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2026!

Healthy Athletes Screenings

2026 State Indoor Winter Games

Step up for your free health screenings and snag some cool giveaways. Jiblets included!



Healthy Hearing



Opening Eyes



Special Smiles



Strong Minds



Where Screenings Are Taking Place

Lake Point Sport Complex
Saturday, January 31st
9:00 am- 2:00 pm

- Healthy Hearing
- Opening Eyes
- Special Smiles

Powerlifting
Saturday, January 31st
9:00 am- 2:00 pm

- Strong Minds

Contact us to learn more!



(770) 414-9390 Ext. 1111



Leksi.Whatley@SpecialOlympicsGA.org



<https://www.specialolympicsga.org>

2026 WINTER GAMES FACT SHEET



Special Olympics
Georgia



2026 STATE INDOOR WINTER GAMES & SOUTHEAST POWERLIFTING JANUARY 30 – JANUARY 31 MARIETTA, GEORGIA

Sports:

Basketball
Bowling
Gymnastics (Artistic)
Powerlifting
Pickleball

Who:

2500 Athletes, Coaches and Unified Partners
1500 Volunteers
400 Family Members

Opening Ceremony:

7:00 p.m., Friday, January 30th
Cobb Civic Center
548 S. Marietta Pkwy. Marietta, GA 30060
liz.smith@specialolympicsga.org

For information contact:

• Events

Santiago Arias, (770) 414-9390 ext. 1109
santiago.arias@specialolympicsga.org

• Sponsorships

Thomas Ritch, (770) 414-9390 ext. 1116
tms@specialolympicsga.org

• To Volunteer

Leksi Whatley, (770) 414-9390 ext. 1111
leksiwatley@specialolympicsga.org

• Law Enforcement Torch Run

Corner King, (770) 414-9390 ext. 1103
corner.king@specialolympicsga.org

Awards

Awards will take place on Friday afternoon January 30 at Bowling, and Saturday, January 31 roughly at 10 a.m. through 5 p.m. at each sports venue.

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.

HEALTHY ATHLETES AT LOCAL COMPETITIONS

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, leksy.whatley@specialolympicsga.org

Special Olympics
Healthy Athletes®

SUPPORTED BY
Golisano FOUNDATION
Imagine the possibilities! 



Special Olympics
Georgia 

CLINICAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Clinical Directors Needed

Special Olympics Georgia (SOGA) is looking for health professionals to join assist with Healthy Athlete Screenings.



Click/ scan to learn more.



Contact: Leksi Whatley
Volunteer and Health Manager
Leksi.Whatley@SpecialOlympicsGA.org
(770)414-9390 Ext. 1111



ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Havana is a sophomore at Greene County High School. She attends an adapted PE class each morning, and she is very enthusiastic about exercising and dancing. She has been training for basketball this month, and she has been making many personal fitness gains. Havana enjoys running with her peers, and she has worked hard to complete a half-mile jogging challenge. We are so proud of all that Havana has accomplished and how willing she is to try new activities.



HAVANA W.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



NATALIE A.

We are thrilled to celebrate Natalie as our Volunteer of the Month! Natalie has been a dedicated volunteer with Special Olympics Georgia through Winter Construction for the past few years, and her commitment continues to make a meaningful difference.

Not only does she assist at State Games across Georgia, from Cobb County to Valdosta, but she also helps coordinate the incredible volunteers from Winter Construction, ensuring everyone is prepared, supported, and having a great time.

Her leadership and positivity creates an atmosphere where volunteers feel connected, and our athletes feel celebrated.

Thank you, Natalie, for the impact you've made and the joy you bring to Special Olympics Georgia. We are incredibly grateful for you!

SPONSORSHIP SPOTLIGHT

WELLS FARGO

WELLS FARGO HAS A LONG-STANDING COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITIES IT SERVES AND PROVIDING FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITY AND INCLUSION IN THOSE COMMUNITIES AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY. OUR SUPPORT OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS GEORGIA ALLOWS US TO PURSUE BOTH OF THOSE GOALS WHILE CLOSELY ALIGNING WITH THE MISSION OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS TO EMPOWER INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES THROUGH SPORT, HEALTH, AND LEADERSHIP. THROUGH THIS PARTNERSHIP, WELLS FARGO HELPS ENSURE THAT THOUSANDS OF GEORGIA ATHLETES ARE CELEBRATED FOR THEIR ABILITIES, NOT THEIR LIMITATIONS.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS GEORGIA IS PROUD TO HAVE WELLS FARGO AS A PARTNER AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THEIR TEAM TO PROVIDE THE 2026 STATE WINTER AND SUMMER GAMES.



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!

