

GEORGIA'S CHAMPIONS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES!

Special Olympics Georgia would like to take a second to sincerely thank everyone who took part in this year's 2020 Duck Pluck. Because of your generous support we sold over 10,200 total ducks! We appreciate your loyalty and dedication to our SOGA athletes.



Let me win.
But if I cannot win,
let me be brave in the attempt.
- Special Olympics athlete oath

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



It's time to get prepared for Duck Season! Join us and Georgia Natural Gas at the 7th Annual Shoot for Champions benefiting our athletes. On Friday November 20th, 2020, over 75 shooters will take on the picturesque 12 station course at the beautiful Garland Mountain Sporting Clays. If you are interested in becoming a participant or sponsor, please contact [Keegan Flanigan](mailto:keegan.flanigan@specialolympicsga.org) at 770-414-9390 ex 1111 or keegan.flanigan@specialolympicsga.org

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2021
LAKE ACWORTH, ACWORTH GA
STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS



POLAR PLUNGE®

**Special
Olympics**
Georgia



MARLOW'S TAVERN AND STERLING CULINARY GOLF CLASSIC

We are excited to announce the 22nd Annual Marlow's Tavern and Sterling Culinary Golf Classic on Thursday, October 15 at the Country Club of Roswell.



We are so thankful and excited that we are able to have the tournament this year. With your generous support and involvement in this year's tournament, you will give hope to 26,620 athletes across Georgia who compete in over 600 local games, meets, and tournaments along with five annual statewide games and competitions. We hope that once again, you will join us for what promises to be a historic event and hopefully another record setting year!

For more information, contact Kaitlin Henderson at 770-414-9390 ext. 1113. Thank you Marlow's Tavern and past and current sponsors, for your generous support over the years!

[Click here for Available Sponsorships and Registration Form](#)



SILENT AUCTION

Silent Auction items are needed. If you are interested in donating please contact Keegan Flanigan at 770-414-9390 ext. 1111

ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

JOEY RIVARD | WHITE COUNTY



Meet Joey Rivard. Joey attends White County High School and is an athlete for White County Special Olympics. Joey started participating in local games when he was in Elementary School. When White County started participating in State Games Joey was a part of the second set of athletes to go in 2017. Joey participates in athletics where he has medaled in running, long jump and the javelin throw. In 2016, Joey was in a terrible motorcycle accident where he had multiple injuries one being serious injury to his leg. He was not able to participate in athletics for a year due to his injuries. However, Joey overcame these obstacles despite the challenges he faced. Joey is not only a determined young man on the field but he is a champion off the field as well. He has a heart of gold and helps his teammates in anyway that he can. Joey is the epitome of what Special Olympics stands for and we are proud to have him on our team.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

BECKY KIDWELL | GWINNETT COUNTY

We would like to recognize Becky Kidwell for her outstanding efforts and endeavors in being on our advisory board. She has been our treasurer and resilient supporter for our young athletes and their families for more years than I can count.

She is both the level head and cheerleader for our athletes and their dreams to reach for their goals. Becky ensures and engages in popularizing Special Olympics' mission that has given us both the financial assistance, as well as community participation to flourish and be a successful Special Olympics agency. She also coaches and prepares our athletes in level A swimming, for State Summer Games. She is one of the first to run into the "cold" water. The athletes jump in, without fear into her arms and ... even sometimes refuse to release.

Becky's hard work, effort and enthusiasm is infectious, and we can only thank her and hope that more volunteers like her step up and shine!



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

Last month, Dunkin'® partnered again with Special Olympics Georgia for the 5th Annual Do Good with Dunkin'® event. On September 29th, Dunkin'® opened the doors to over 68 locations across the state of Georgia. Together, officers and volunteers raised \$44,000 for Special Olympics Georgia athletes in just 6 hours! By opening their doors, Dunkin'® proves that they are a passionate leader in Georgia and are committed to making a difference in our community.

Dunkin'® dedication and support helps provide Special Olympics Georgia athletes a chance to participate in programs at no cost.

Through their partnership and guests contributions, over 406 athletes will be able to compete in Special Olympics Georgia at the state level!

We are honored to have Dunkin'® as a member of the Special Olympics Georgia family, and it is a relationship that we definitely value and hold in high regard. Thank you Dunkin'® for your continued belief in and dedication to the 26,620 Special Olympics Georgia athletes!



CHAMPIONS CORNER

SOGA SPOTLIGHT

2020 Special Olympics Youth Ambassadors



Steven Russell



Jordan Adeyemi

SOGA is proud to announce **Steven Russell** and **Jordan Adeyemi** are 2 of the 16 nominees in the United States that have been selected as 2020 U.S. Youth Ambassadors! The Special Olympics U.S. Youth Ambassadors are a group of youth leaders with and without intellectual disabilities who are striving to make the nation a more inclusive place for all. These youth leaders act as advocates, share stories, and demonstrate the values of Inclusive Youth Leadership across the country. Through training, engagement, and activation at the national level, U.S. Youth Ambassadors are strong leaders of the Inclusion Revolution. Congratulations Steven and Jordan on this amazing opportunity! We are so proud of you!



Special Olympics
Unified Sports®

STAYING FIT AT HOME...



Hawks at Home offers opportunities to learn basketball skills and drills so you can stay on top of your game while staying home. Not so sure about basketball? Hawks at Home also includes instructional dance videos, STEM activities and coloring pages.

[Click here to learn more!](#)

FREE INCLUSIVE WORKOUTS

Did you know we have a partnership with Anytime Fitness? Through our partnership, you can access weekly inclusive workouts airing live every Wednesday at 1 p.m. ET on [Anytime Fitness's Facebook Page](#). Make sure to stay connected with our social media to learn more about Anytime Fitness and their inclusive workouts that you can access from home.



GET INVOLVED WITH SOGA



Interested in joining the SOGA community? Here are all the ways you can get involved:

Interested in becoming a SOGA Coach?

Visit the SOGA website for general quizzes & resources on Coaching Special Olympics Athletes, Principles in Coaching, & Autism Spectrum Disorder
Visit our Learning Portal to get educated and certified in Unified Sports & Concussion Training
Coach's Code of Conduct
Online Recertifications

For Information on Coaches Clinics & Initial Sport Certification contact Liz Smith

Interested in becoming a SOGA volunteer?

Volunteer & Unified Partner Profile Form
Click here to learn about SOGA's volunteer screening policy.
Protective Behaviors Quiz
Background Screen

Sign up online for all Volunteer Opportunities



If you have any questions about volunteering please contact Courtney Payne or Hannah Creasey.

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers Needed!

JANUARY 29&30, 2021

INDOOR WINTER GAMES

☆ **Marietta, GA** ☆

☆ **Multiple Locations** ☆

☆ **Numerous Shifts Available!** ☆

Sports:

Basketball

Floor Hockey

Bowling

Powerlifting

Artistic Gymnastics

Applications can be found at:
<http://sogeorgia.vsyshost.com/>

Special Olympics
Georgia



If you are interested in Volunteering for Winter Games in Marietta, Georgia please contact Hannah Creasey.

Resources to help in the Crisis

LEARN MORE

eLearning Course

With the help of athletes and Program Staff, we have developed a 30-minute eLearning course for our Special Olympics community about COVID-19. This course is designed to cover the basic information about the coronavirus (COVID-19) including: what is the coronavirus, what are the symptoms, how does it spread, and how you can protect yourself. We encourage the entire Special Olympics community to complete this module at learn.specialolympics.org Please see [instructions](#) for accessing this course.

Young Athletes

Family Flash Cards. Fun and engaging flashcards featuring each of the individual activities and at home equipment modifications for families to use at home to run Young Athletes.

Young Athletes At Home. Guide for families and caregivers on how to run Young Athletes activities at home.

Young Athletes Videos. Videos demonstrating the individual Young Athletes activities.

Healthy Play at Home. Poster for families to track the various healthy behaviors they do at home.

Tips for talking to children about COVID-19 from [CDC](#) and [UNICEF](#).

Fitness

Fit 5 Resources Series

Staying Fit at Home: simple week-long calendar that athletes can follow to stay fit. Week-long calendar can be repeated as needed. Athletes can sign up on the link in the resource to receive newsletter with content from Health Messengers to for tips and ideas on how to stay active.

School of Strength: Launched in March 2020 across the Special Olympics movement, School of Strength is an interactive online platform that encourages athletes to participate in a fun and engaging training program that they can do in the comfort of their own homes. Developed in partnership with WWE superstar Becky Lynch, this series of videos, a fitness tracker, a coach's playbook and a caregiver toolkit all contribute to helping athletes focus on nutrition and fitness and getting the most out of their workouts.

eLearning for Coaches

The [online learning portal](#) has a number of free eLearning courses, now available for coaches, which are now available in a number of languages. In addition, you will find guidance created specifically for [coaches](#) to assist them during the COVID-19 crisis, including how to conduct virtual training sessions and how to activate with your athletes when you do not have access to technology. As more resources around virtual games become available, including best practices and tips, they will be made available on resources.specialolympics.org.

Virtual Games

Visit the [Virtual Games](#) section of resources.specialolympics.org to learn how virtual games are being offered in different programs.

COVID-19 STATEMENT

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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LCG
ASSOCIATES

2020 FALL GAMES SPONSORS



Thank you to all of our Sponsors!

We look forward to seeing you October 8-10th, 2021 at the State Fall Games



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



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Appalachian Tech Services | Chicopee Woods Agricultural Center | Roper & Sons Anything Crane



THUMBS UP FOR OUR TREASURERS

Special Olympics Georgia would like to take a second to sincerely thank all of our local and area management team treasurers. We appreciate you handling all of the financial responsibilities that comes along with being a SOGA program. If you have any financial questions please reach out to our

Senior Accounts Manager - Craig Pugh at craig.pugh@specialolympicsga.org or 770-414-9390 ext. 1110.



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

Thomas Ritch
770-414-9390 ext. 1121



Did you know that every time you shop at Amazon you can support SOGA athletes? Thanks to the AmazonSmile program, 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases will be donated to SOGA. Instead of going to Amazon's main home page, go to AmazonSmile. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon that you know - same products, same prices, same service. If you click the link above, Special Olympics Georgia automatically will be selected as your charity. Now, every time you make a purchase from Amazon through smile.amazon.com you'll be supporting SOGA athletes! [Click here to start shopping.](#)

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!



STAY SAFE AND STAY CONNECTED WITH SOGA

