

Georgia's Champions

April 2021

**Let me win.
But if I cannot win,
let me be **brave** in
the attempt.**

-Special Olympics Athlete Oath



***Special
Olympics***
Georgia



Mark Your Calendars



When you Adopt a Duck you support the 26,620 Special Olympics athletes. The Duck Pluck will take place on Wednesday, September 22nd at the Special Olympics Georgia office. For more information about the 2021 Duck Pluck please contact Robert Yost at robert.yost@specialolympicsga.org or (770)-414-9390 ext. 1104.



[Click here to adopt your duck TODAY!](#)

SAVE *the* DATE

Special Olympics Georgia

Please join Georgia Natural Gas® for the

8th ANNUAL SHOOT FOR CHAMPIONS

benefiting Special Olympics Georgia

August 20, 2021

For more information about the Georgia Natural Gas Shoot for Champions event please contact Robert Yost at:
robert.yost@specialolympicsga.org
or (770)-414-9390 ext. 1104.

COPS ON DONUT SHOPS

Stop by and donate on June 4th from 5-11 AM to benefit Special Olympics Georgia



DUNKIN'

Valid at participating locations in Georgia. Visit specialolympicsga.org for participating locations. ©2021 DD IP Holder LLC.


Special Olympics Georgia is proud to announce the 6th Annual Cops on Donut Shops event on National Donut Day, Friday, June 4th at participating Dunkin' Stores! This event will benefit 26,620 Special Olympics Georgia athletes across the state of Georgia.

For more information, contact Kaitlin Henderson at kaitlin.henderson@specialolympicsga.org or at 770-414-9390 ext. 1113.

Virtual Activities

INCLUSIVE YOGA FOR ALL BODY TYPES

VIRTUAL YOGA



THURSDAY,
APRIL 8
11 A.M.



**Special
Olympics**
Georgia

VIRTUAL BINGO

ATHLETES	THEME REVEALED AT THE BEGINNING OF APRIL!	FRIENDS
FAMILY	 Special Olympics Georgia	FUN
COMPETITION	COACHES	SOGA

FRIDAY, APRIL 16TH
1:00-2:00PM

National Volunteer Week



April 18-24 marks **National Volunteer Week** - a week to recognize the energy and enthusiasm volunteers bring to our organization. We recognize the time and effort you put in to help our programs run and want to thank you for your hard work. Without volunteers, we would not be able to change the lives of so many individuals. From being a coach to simply attending an event to cheer, you are making a difference. Click the graphic above to share your volunteer story with us!

Thank you Treasurers

Special Olympics Georgia wants to say a special thank you to all local and area treasurers who work so hard each month on financials. We appreciate your dedication to our athletes.

JOIN US FOR
2021 HORSE SHOW

WILLS PARK, ALPHARETTA GA

HEALTHY ATHLETES

SATURDAY MAY 29TH, 2021
9:00AM-3:00PM



FREE SCREENINGS FOR ANKLES, FEET,
WALK PATTERN, AND FITTINGS FOR
ATHLETES' SHOES AND SOCKS.

THE FIRST 50 ATHLETES SCREENED WILL RECEIVE A
\$5 CHICK-FIL-A GIFT CARD!

Thank you to all of our Horse Show Sponsors!

The Clare Family



The Pritchett Family

St. Peter Chanel

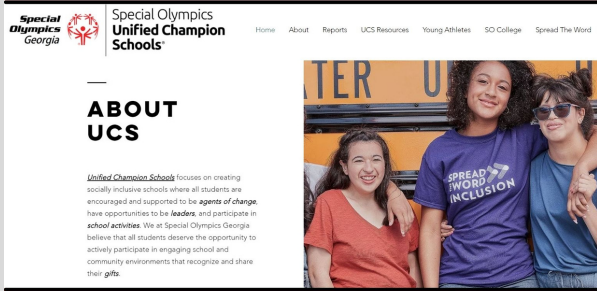
There will be no spectators allowed at the 2021 Horse Show.

Champions Corner



Special Olympics
Unified Champion
Schools®

Unified Champion Schools Website Launch

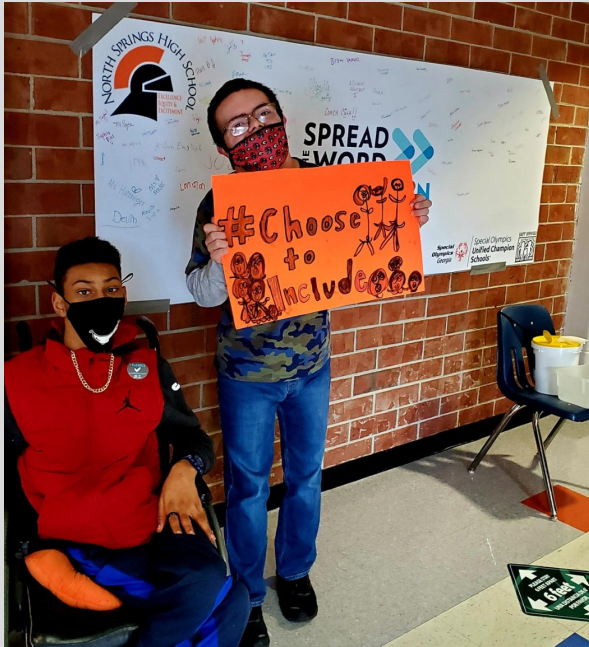


SOGAUCS.COM

Unified Champion Schools now has a website! Schools can now access Playbooks, Supplies and Funding Requests, Spread The Word Supplies, and more right from one location.

If you are interested in becoming a Unified Champion School to access these resources and requests, please contact your area's Program Manager or go to **SOGAUCS.COM**

Thank you to everyone who participated in Spread the Word:Inclusion Day!



Henry County Parks and Rec

North Springs High School



Bleckley County High School



Westminster School

Athlete of the Month



Joshua Hood is an athlete for Bulloch County Schools Special Olympics. He participates in Bowling, as well as Track and Field. Joshua is a wonderful teammate! He is polite, encouraging, and is always excited to cheer for the members of his team. He is respectful to his coaches and always works hard. Joshua stays fit by participating in an after-school exercise program held at Georgia Southern University. Although it has been disappointing not having Special Olympics, he is excited to get back to it!

Volunteer of the Month

Gavin Colquitt is a professor at Georgia Southern University and serves as the Competitions Chairperson for Bulloch County Schools Special Olympics' Management Team. Throughout the years, Gavin has created several programs in the Statesboro and Bulloch County community that provide Special Olympics Athletes with ways to stay fit and have fun when they are not competing. Athletes love seeing Gavin at their practices and competitions and are always excited to give him a high-five. Bulloch County is thankful for Gavin, his hard work, and his dedication to the athletes!



Sponsor Spotlight



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

SOGA is proud to once again have the Knights of Columbus Charities of Georgia, Inc. as our Opening Ceremonies and Olympic Town Sponsor for the 2021 State Fall Games. 2021 marks the 17th year that the Knights of Columbus and SOGA have shared a partnership, in which we have come to count on the Knights for support as sponsors and volunteers throughout our State Games. The Knights 4th Degree Color Guard can be seen presenting the colors at each state level event, and you can be sure to count on seeing the Knights volunteering and helping athletes at Fall Games Olympic Town each year. As a State Platinum Sponsor, The Knights have a presence at all State events, and SOGA can always count on them to provide hard working volunteers for each event!

The Knumb Knights of St. Benedict have consistently been one of the top fundraising teams at the annual Polar Plunge. Now in their 9th year of plunging they have also recruited two new teams, Cold Winter Knights, and Hot Knights, that brought in the total raised for Special Olympics Georgia by Knights of Columbus teams to \$35,442.49! Besides from taking the Plunge we have come to count on support from Knights of Columbus groups from across the state, including St. Peter Chanel in Roswell who despite COVID were able to host their 6th Annual 5K benefiting Special Olympics Georgia and raised over \$3,400 by moving their race to a virtual format. The Knights of Columbus' mission is to develop and implement programs to serve the needs of the church, families, youth, communities, and councils, embracing the culture of life. SOGA is proud to partner with local Knights of Columbus Councils, the Knights of Columbus State Council and the Knights of Columbus Charities of Georgia to support the 26,620 SOGA athletes from across the state.

Thank you, Knights of Columbus for your continued support! We are very excited to have you involved as a State Wide Sponsor, and we appreciate your hard work during each event. Your support in both monetary donations and many hours volunteering are very much appreciated, and we couldn't do what we do without your continuous support.



Get Involved With Us



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



Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities



Be A Virtual Fan



Athletes are missing their SOGA fans, and we want to get your faces out there so they can see how many people are cheering them on! We are asking volunteers to take a photo yourself holding a homemade poster or video with a short positive message recognizing the hard work and accomplishments of our athletes (i.e. "Great job, Athletes," "Keep up the hard work," "You Rock!").

Please visit <http://sogeorgia.vsyshost.com/> to complete registration.

Letters of Encouragement

Write a letter (or poem, card, or draw a picture) to an athlete letting them know that we are thinking about them and encouraging them to keep pushing through these difficult times. Any message of hope or encouragement that will brighten an athlete's day will be perfect!

**If you have any questions about either opportunity above, please reach out to
Hannah.Creasey@specialolympicsga.org**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

SPECIAL OLYMPICS GA

STATE FALL GAMES 2021

OCTOBER 8-9

3795 GUEST RD, VALDOSTA, GA

REACH OUT TO

COURTNEY.PAYNE@SPECIALOLYMPICSGA.ORG
FOR MORE INFO

Online Resources

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.





SOGA Promos

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.](#)



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



Now through April 30th receive \$2 off your meal at Salata and for every coupon presented \$1 will be donated to SOGA by Salata and our friends at Engel & Völkers Buckhead Atlanta Engel & Völkers Atlanta North Fulton will match \$1 as well! So save \$2 and give \$2 for each salad now through April 30th! **Remember to bring the coupon above!**

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!

COVID-19 STATEMENT

