



Georgia's Champions

May 2021

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!**



Thank you to all volunteers and athletes who helped make the 2021 Rabun County Spring Games a huge success!

**Special
Olympics**
Georgia



Mark Your Calendars

COPS ON DONUT SHOPS

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



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 Annual Cops in 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.

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

SAVE *the* DATE



**Special Olympics
Georgia**

Please join Georgia Natural Gas® for the
**8th ANNUAL
SHOOT FOR CHAMPIONS**
benefiting Special Olympics Georgia

Friday, August 20th, 2021



2021 State Fall Games October 8-9 Valdosta, Georgia



Special Olympics Georgia is very excited to host the 2021 State Fall Games in Valdosta, GA on October 8 & 9! Athletes from around the state can register and compete in the individual sports events of Athletics, Bocce singles, Flag Football skills, Golf individual hole play, Soccer skills, Softball skills and Tennis singles. For more information about the event, please contact David Crawford at:
David.Crawford@specialolympicsga.org or (229)-292-5143.

Virtual Activities



VIRTUAL YOGA

TUESDAY, MAY 11TH
10:30AM



Presented by:

Coca-Cola

INCLUSIVE YOGA FOR ALL BODY TYPES

[Click here for more information about our upcoming Virtual Activities!](#)

Lucky Duck Sponsor:



Super Splash Sponsors:



Finish Line Sponsors:



Diving Duck Sponsors:



Feathered Friend Sponsor:

Elizabeth Greene



Thank you to 2021 Duck Pluck Sponsors!

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

2021 State Horse Show

May 28-29

Wills Park Equestrian Center, Alpharetta GA



Visit
**HEALTHY
ATHLETES**
at the
2021 State Horse Show

SATURDAY MAY 29TH, 2021
9:00AM-12:00PM
WILLS PARK,
ALPHARETTA GA

FEATURING
Fit Feet

The first 50 athletes screened will receive a \$5 Chick-fil-a gift card!

Thank you to all of our State Horse Show Sponsors!
The Clare Family



The Pritchett Family

St. Peter Chanel

Jones Day

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

Athlete of the Month



Chase is an athlete for Coweta County Special Olympics. He enjoys participating in bowling, swimming, track & field, and softball. He is excited to start training again soon and can't wait to see all his friends and teammates again at the competitions.

Chase has been staying active and always encourages others to do the same.

Volunteer of the Month

Candace is an instrumental part of our therapeutic program at Carrollton Parks & Recreation Department. She has genuine and personal relationships with our athletes, she attends every Special Olympics practice, local, and state games.



Candace also assists with paperwork, scheduling and correspondence with athletes, parents, and teachers. No one has the same passion and love that Candace has for our athletes. She is not just as an advocate in Special Olympics, but she cares about their education and personal goals as well.

Sponsor Spotlight



Special Olympics Georgia is thrilled to have Lockheed Martin's support again in 2021! The Lockheed Martin teams are passionate supporters of Special Olympics Georgia athletes and instrumental to the success of the Indoor Winter Games.

As a global security and information technology company, Lockheed Martin plays an active role in helping to strengthen the quality of life in the communities it is located. Lockheed Martin strives to be a valued partner to its neighbors and is committed to community involvement, with the belief that giving back is the very best way forward.

The impact that Lockheed volunteers has on the athletes is endless. Thank you Lockheed Martin for 28 years of making Special Olympics dreams come true for athletes across Georgia!



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**

National Volunteer Week

We hope you had a wonderful National Volunteer Week. Volunteers create, innovate and work to make a better world for Special Olympics Athletes; you help us build stronger and more inclusive communities for our athletes. Your time, support, and caring efforts as a volunteer are unmatched. Please know how much we appreciate you as we celebrate your role in changing the lives of Special Olympics athletes through year-round sports and fitness opportunities, health, education, and community building. With your help, we are leading an Inclusion Revolution to make the world kinder, gentler, and more just for all people.



Click here for a Thank You video from the team at Special Olympics Georgia!

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.](#)

[COVID-19 STATEMENT](#)



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

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!

