

# Georgia's Champions

June 2021



## COPS ON DONUT SHOPS

June 4<sup>th</sup> • 5-11 AM

DONATIONS TO BENEFIT



Special  
Olympics  
Georgia



Special Olympics Georgia is proud to announce the 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. Make sure to stop by your local Dunkin store for a Donut on June 4th. For more information, contact Kelli Bonner at [kelli.bonner@specialolympicsga.org](mailto:kelli.bonner@specialolympicsga.org) or at 770-414-9390 ext. 1120.

# Thank you, Local Coordinators!

SOGA is sending our most sincere "Thank You" to our 214 amazing Local Coordinators who run programs all across the state of Georgia! You all are responsible for so much, and you are one of the main reasons that our athletes have so many opportunities. Thank you for pouring your hearts, effort, and time into the athletes of Special Olympics Georgia!

# Mark Your Calendars

## SAVE *the* DATE



**Special Olympics**  
Georgia

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

**August 20, 2021**



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

## BE A SPONSOR !

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A FALL GAMES SPONSOR FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS GEORGIA?

YOUR SPONSORSHIP HELPS ATHLETES ATTEND STATE GAMES EACH YEAR

CONTACT MEREDITH-ELIZABETH CRUM AT  
[MEC@SPECIALOLYMPICSGA.ORG](mailto:MEC@SPECIALOLYMPICSGA.ORG) OR (229) 834-8277



Special Olympics Georgia is very excited to host the 2021 State Fall Games in Valdosta, GA on October 8 & 9! For more information about the event, please contact David Crawford at: [David.Crawford@specialolympicsga.org](mailto:David.Crawford@specialolympicsga.org) or (229)-292-5143.

## Click the icons to follow us on Social Media!





# Virtual Activities



## SOGA

## UNIFIED

## YOGA

JOIN US IN JUNE FOR  
ANOTHER FUN, INCLUSIVE  
VIRTUAL YOGA CLASS!

TAKING PLACE ON  
**JUNE 22ND**  
**10:30AM**

Sponsored by:

*Coca-Cola*



[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

TO OUR CLINICAL DIRECTOR  
AND VOLUNTEERS,

## THANK YOU!

Because of your dedication to Special Olympics Georgia athletes, the 2021 State Horse Show's **Healthy Athletes Fit Feet** screenings were a huge success!



SOGA hosted a successful State Horse Show on May 28-29th at Wills Park Equestrian Center. 40 athletes & unified partners, 30 coaches & horse handlers, 200 volunteers, 10 GOC, judges, scribes, 6 SOGA Team members & medical volunteers attended this great competition. Thank you to everyone who made this event possible!

## The Clare Family



The Pritchett Family

St. Peter Chanel

Jones Day

Happy Horse

Rose Acre Farms



# ***Athlete of the Month***



Nadia McKinney joined the Douglas County Special Olympics team in 2017. She has strived to work hard and learn everything she can about being an equestrian athlete and how to care for the horses. She always has a friendly smile, is a willing volunteer, great helping hand, and a true friend to the other athletes. Always cheering on her teammates and engaging them in games. Nadia has come so incredibly far in her journey in a short time and has even taught her coaches about resilience and the strength it takes to push through tough times.

She's the kind of person that wants to be able to do it all and that determination continues to show everyone that anything is possible. A kind soul who's gained so much independence, assertiveness, responsibility, and trust through horseback riding. We can't wait to see where her journey takes her as she continues on her path.

# ***Volunteer of the Month***

Amy McCollum has been a parent mentor in Oconee County for 13 years. She has been a strong advocate for students with all disabilities and their families. Amy has extended her compassion and dedication in this field of work by being the Local Coordinator for Special Olympics for Oconee County Schools for the past 5 years. Her organizational skills are impeccable, she builds relationships with the teachers, parents, the athletes, and the state Special Olympics organization. Having a love for what she does overflows into her work. We, in Oconee County, are thankful for her 13 years of service as a Parent Mentor and 5 years of service as a Local Coordinator for Special Olympics. We wish her well as she retires and enjoys her next chapter of life.



# ***Sponsor Spotlight***



From its earliest days, The Coca-Cola Company has worked to build strong partnerships with its customers and consumers. The Company understands its responsibility as a corporate citizen and often lends its unique expertise and resources to those in need.

The Coca-Cola Company recognizes the importance of healthy and sustainable communities. As a global beverage company, The Coca-Cola Company has committed itself to improving the quality of life in the communities where they do business. Their community investment priorities reflect the global and local nature of their business and focuses on those global pillars where The Coca-Cola Company can make a unique and sustainable difference: women, water, well-being and community.

The Coca-Cola Company continues to generously support Special Olympics Georgia through monetary and product donations. It also regularly provides hands-on volunteer assistance during our State Competitions and hosts various events for our athletes. The Company puts its mission – to refresh the world, inspire moments of optimism and happiness, to create value and make a difference – into action through its support of SOGA and its athletes. The Coca-Cola Company truly believes in making a difference, especially among the athletes.

Special Olympics Georgia is extremely proud of our long-standing partnership with The Coca-Cola Company and appreciates its commitment in helping us fulfill our mission in serving the athletes and continuing to grow!



# ***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](#)**



# 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](https://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](https://resources.specialolympics.org).

## Virtual Games

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





# SOGA Promos



**amazon**smile  
You Shop. Amazon Gives.



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!

