Happy New Year

Special Olympics Georgia wants to wish you and your family a very Happy New Year! We are excited for all the wonderful things we have to look forward to in 2022.

Thank you for supporting SOGA in 2021.
Click here to watch video!

It's time to mark your calendar's for the coldest event of the year! On Saturday, February 19th the 2022 Polar Plunge is back at Lake Acworth in Acworth Georgia! Stay tuned for more information and details to come regarding this event.

Click here to register or donate!
Publix Super Markets and Special Olympics Georgia have teamed up once again for Torch Icon Register Sales in the month of January. January 5 – 17, visit your local Publix store and ask for a Torch Icon at the check out register for a small donation to Special Olympics Georgia. Each donor will receive a coupon page for P&G brand products across the store. Donations received will allow Special Olympics Georgia to continue to provide free sports training and competition for 26,620 athletes across Georgia. Thank you to Publix for their continued support of Special Olympics and Publix shoppers for your contributions. Because of you, we are able to continue to help bring out the champion in everyone!

SOGA will host the 2022 State Indoor Winter Games on January 28-29, 2022. The athletes will compete in basketball, bowling, floor hockey, artistic gymnastics, and powerlifting! For more information on Indoor Winter Games, contact Liz Smith at liz.smith@specialolympicsga.org. If you would like to sponsor this event, please contact Thomas Ritch at thomas.ritch@specialolympicsga.org.
To kick off 2022, Special Olympics Georgia (SOGA) would like to recognize our Athlete and Volunteer of the Month Rudolpha. Rudolpha has been with Special Olympics Georgia for over 25 years and has competed in several sports throughout her time with SOGA. Rudolpha is not only an athlete, but she is also a volunteer, a Global Messenger, a member of the Board of Directors and holds many other titles. When Rudolpha is not competing, you can frequently find her helping at the SOGA office, attending SOGA events, or writing notes to sponsors and donors.

In 2021, Rudolpha played a key role at the Cops on Donut Shops Event, Shoot for Champions Event, Bob Busse Memorial Golf Classic, Honorary Board Luncheon, and the St. Ives Country Club Professional Member Invitational, as well as countless other events. Rudolpha embodies all the values of SOGA, and we could not be prouder of the woman she has become. Thank you Rudolpha for your dedicated service to SOGA.
UPS is a decades long supporter of Special Olympics Georgia (SOGA) organization and the volunteer program for all of the Four State Games and the Healthy Athletes Initiatives. Special Olympics Georgia is always striving to improve the Volunteer program at the State Competitions and Healthy Athletes Venues for the thousands of special athletes while also providing a meaningful volunteer experience for the thousands of community members who join in giving back to the organization. UPS continues to work hard to bring more volunteers to the State Games and support the athlete participants and also be fans in the stands! Because of the support of UPS Special Olympics Georgia will provide a platform for more community volunteers to support more athletes through the volunteer service hours. When more volunteers get engaged with the athletes and the SOGA programs, then there is more organizational awareness and education shared everywhere.

Special Olympics Georgia values and appreciates the dedicated support from UPS and the athletes always look forward to seeing hundreds of UPS employees and their family members volunteering and supporting the athletes at events. Thank you UPS for believing in the amazing athletes.

*This group picture was taken prior to COVID-19 guidelines being implemented.*

Thank you 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 Craig Pugh at craig.pugh@specialolympicsga.org or 770-414-9390 ext. 1110.
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](mailto:lissmith@soga.org)

**Interested in becoming a SOGA essential 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**
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

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.

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!