Georgia's Champions

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 to plunge or donate!
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.
Publix Super Markets and Special Olympics 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!
Special thank you to all our Georgia SO College Clubs for a great year! If you are interested in joining in on the excitement and helping to spread the message of inclusion for all by getting a SO College Club started on your campus contact Logan Gross at logan.gross@specialolympicsga.org for more info.

This holiday season, the Finish Line Youth Foundation is fundraising for our athletes to provide them with new sneakers, free health screenings, and more! Visit your local Finish Line now until January 2 to donate! Click here for more information!

Get the limited-edition Special Olympics ornament with your donation of $65 or more! Show that you stand with our athletes this holiday season and all year long. Don't miss your chance - donate now to get yours before we sell out. Click here to donate!
Athlete of the Month

Lilly M. is a member of the Morgan County Special Olympics Organization. She shows up for ALL school and sporting events with the same positive attitude each and every day. She gives 110% at everything she attempts. Lilly is an incredible athlete and even better teammate. When she is not competing, she is everyone's number 1 fan. She spends her time encouraging others and cheering them on! Congratulations, Lilly, on being chosen as Special Olympics Georgia's Athlete of the Month.

Volunteer of the Month

Noelle recently took over as the Local Coordinator for Morgan County Special Olympics. She is an extremely dedicated teacher and coach. Noelle has led many fundraisers this school year including a spaghetti dinner, a yeti drawing, and a chili cook-off. Since her induction, Noelle has coordinated training for all 4 schools in Morgan County to become certified Special Olympics coaches in Bowling, Athletics, Bocce, Volleyball, Basketball, and Young Athletes. Noelle has also assisted with signing on the Middle School as a Unified Champions School and is helping to bring a Unified Basketball team to the Indoor Winter Games in January! We are so thankful for Noelle's time, energy, and commitment to Special Olympics!
For more than 25 years Publix Super Markets have helped raise over $60 million for Special Olympics athletes through customer donations. Each January, Publix associates and customers join together to raise awareness and funds for Special Olympics Georgia and Special Olympics organizations throughout the southeast. During each Publix campaign SOGA arranges over 190 visits from local law enforcement officers to each store manager as a thank you for their continued support. Publix has helped fund over 90,000 athletes to compete at State Games over 25 years. Publix spreads the word and allows for local shoppers to Be a Fan of SOGA athletes and we couldn’t be more thankful for their continued support and dedication.

Since 1987, LETR has grown consistently every year. The Law Enforcement Torch Run is the single largest year-round fundraising vehicle benefitting Special Olympics Georgia. Law enforcement agencies across the state of Georgia raised over $1.6 million for Special Olympics Georgia in 2021! As the Guardians of the Flame, law enforcement essential volunteers contribute countless hours each year, generate ongoing awareness about our mission, and secure crucial grassroots resources. Members of law enforcement are also Special Olympics Georgia parents, coaches, volunteers, and Unified partners. There continue to be opportunities to use our combined voices to make critical strides towards true inclusion in every community. Special Olympics Georgia is proud of our relationship with the Law Enforcement Torch Run and grateful for their support that makes much of our mission possible. Thank you for making a difference!
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 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

S P R E A D  T H E  W O R D

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!