NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK
APRIL 17TH - 23RD

Know someone who makes an impact in your athletes life? Submit a story on the volunteer in your life to be highlighted by Special Olympics Georgia during National Volunteer Week. For more information email Catherine Justice at Catherine.Justice@SpecialOlympicsGA.org

THANK YOU ALL LOCAL AND AREA TREASURERS

Thank you to all of our local and area treasurers!
If you need any help or assistance please email Craig Pugh at craig.pugh@specialolympicsga.org
As we prepare for the Duck Pluck, we need your support now more than ever. Your duck adoption will help us provide our programs to over 17,000 registered athletes across the state of Georgia. Our goal this year is for 11,000 ducks to be adopted!

Adopt A Duck Today or Become A Sponsor
Email Sarah Galbraith at Sarah.Galbraith@SpecialOlympicsGa.org for more information.
State Horse Show

Come support our athletes!
Where: Wills Park
When: May 27th - 28th

Contact Hannah Creasey at
Hannah.Creasey@SpecialOlympicsGa.org
or by calling (770)414-9390 ext. 1103

Summer Games

Come support our athletes!
Where: Emory University
When: May 27th - 29th

Contact Courtney Payne at
Courtney.Payne@SpecialOlympicsGa.org
or by calling (299)712-9973
Thank you to all who supported Jersey Mike's Month of Giving Campaign and Day of Giving. Thanks to your support we can support Georgia athletes going to the 2022 USA Summer Games in Orlando Florida June 4th - June 12th.

"MY BIGGEST CHALLENGE IS GETTING PEOPLE TO SEE US FOR WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE CAN DO. I CAN DO BEAUTIFUL CART-WHEELS—CAN YOU?"

#1 KATY INVOLVED IN SPECIAL OLYMPICS FOR 30+ YEARS

"I LIKE POWERLIFTING THE MOST, I LIKE THE CHALLENGE AND LIKE PUSHING MYSELF."

#1 DION SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETE
Thank you to all who supported SPB Hospitality Group by stopping by their local Stoney River, Logan's Roadhouse, J. Alexander's, Redland's Grill, and Old Chicago during their #InclusionRevolution Campaign.
Georgia's Champions

Special Olympics Georgia

2022 STATE SUMMER GAMES
MAY 27 – MAY 29
EMORY UNIVERSITY (ATLANTA)

Sports:
- Swimming
- Gymnastics
- Soccer
- Tennis
- Athletics (Track & Field)
- Flag Football
- Table Tennis
- Volleyball

Mission of Special Olympics Georgia
To provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community.

Donate:
Contact Thomas Ritch at (770) 414-9390 extension 1121
thomas.ritch@specialolympicsga.org
Click here to donate directly to the 2022 State Summer Games:
www.sogasummergames.org

Who:
2000 Athletes, Coaches and Unified Partners
1000 Volunteers

Opening Ceremony: (Followed by Dance)
7:30 – 8:30 p.m., Friday, May 27th
McDonough Field
Logan Gross (770) 414-9390 ext. 1109
Logan.Gross@specialolympicsga.org

Olympic Town/Street Festival
9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Saturday, May 28th
Located on the pedestrian walkway between McDonough Field and Emory Student Center
Logan Gross (770) 414-9390 ext. 1109
Logan.Gross@specialolympicsga.org

Meals: (For registered delegates only)
Registered delegations will receive 4 meals during Summer Games at the Emory Dining Facility. The meals are Friday night dinner and Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner.
Meredith Crum (229) 834-8277
MEC@specialolympicsga.org

For information contact:
• Events
  David Crawford, (229) 292-5143
david.crawford@specialolympicsga.org

• Sponsorships
  Thomas Ritch, (770) 414-9390 ext. 1121
  thomas.ritch@specialolympicsga.org

• To Volunteer
  Click this link:
  http://sogorgia.vays hosting.com
  Courtney Payne, (229) 712-9973
courtney.payne@specialolympicsga.org

• Law Enforcement Torch Run
  Catherine Justice, (770) 414-9390 ext. 1120
catherine.justice@specialolympicsga.org

www.SpecialOlympicsGA.org
**Healthy Athletes**

Join us May 27th & May 28th at Summer Games and Horse show! Have your athlete participate in a free eye and dental exam!

Contact Matthew Balte at Matthew.Balte@SpecialOlympicsGa.org for more information.

**Youth Forum 2022**

Join us July 10th-12th for the 2022 Youth Forum taking place at our SOGA Norcross office!

Youth Forum is a 3-day, 2-night event where Athletes and Partner from all over Georgia come together for leadership education, sports training, and many other fun activities. This awesome experience will teach school-age attendees how they can start the inclusion revolution at their school while also giving them the chance to make lifelong friendships and memories!

For more information contact Stephanie Bailey at Stephanie.Bailey@SpecialOlympicsGa.org.

**Med Fest 2022**

Join us Friday, July 15th, at the Special Olympics Georgia office in Norcross. Athletes will receive a health & fit feet screening, along with lunch and a fun craft!

Contact Erin Turner at Erin.Turner@SpecialOlympicsGa.org for more information.

Special Olympics Georgia 9th annual Shoot for Champions is August 19th. Interested in signing up or becoming a sponsor? Contact Matthew Balte at Matthew.Balte@SpecialOlympicsGa.org for more information.
SOGA is proud to once again have the Knights of Columbus Charities of Georgia, Inc. as our Platinum Statewide Sponsor for 2022. This year marks the 19th 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, including our Opening Ceremonies at the State Summer Games, and Opening and Olympic Town at the State Fall Games. The Knights 4th Degree Color Guard can be seen presenting the colors at each state level event, and we can always count on The Knights to be present whenever needed. 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!

Many Knights groups have accepted the challenge to take the plunge at the Annual Polar Plunge and they consistently raise over $35,000 collectively for the February fundraiser! 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 over 17,000 SOGA athletes from across the state.

Thank you, Knights of Columbus for your continued support! We are very excited to have you involved at 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.
Unified Champion Schools focuses on creating socially inclusive schools where all students are encouraged and supported to be agents of change, have opportunities to be leaders, and participate in school activities. We at Special Olympics Georgia believe that all students deserve the opportunity to actively participate in engaging school and community environments that recognize and share their gifts.
Athlete of the Month

Tyler Brown loves competing in Special Olympics Georgia State Games. Tyler had this to say about competing.
I enjoy being at state games and getting to know the other athletes from around the state, I also love getting to know the coaches of the athletes I get to compete against.
"My favorite sport to compete in is table tennis. I practice at my house and practice every day to get better and faster. I like to get better at the events I play and I wouldn’t trade it for anything in the world."

Volunteer of the Month

Rhonda Diggs, Volunteer of the Month, had this to say about volunteering with Special Olympics Georgia.
"My favorite part of being with the program is the love I receive from my kids (athletes)! I’m blessed to work with such an amazing group of individuals and the impact that they’ve had on my life is unimaginable. Seeing them grow in their sports, build friendships with their teammates, and excel in life, let’s me know the impact that I have on their life is working."
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 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

February 2022
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

Thinking of selling or trading in that old car, boat or RV? Donate it instead! SOGA has partnered with CARS to turn your old vehicle, whether it’s running or not, into much needed funds for our programs. CARS accepts most cars, trucks, trailers, boats, RV’s, motorcycles, off road vehicles, heavy equipment, and most other motorized vehicles. CARS will make all the arrangements at no cost to you. They handle the title transfer requirements and will provide you with a written acknowledgement of your donation and tax deduction information. Click here for more information or to donate your vehicle. A helpful representative will contact you within 24 hours to schedule a pickup, or call CARS seven days a week at 1-844-404-SOGA (7642) to speak with a representative.

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!