Cheer on the passing of the torch in three Georgia locations this year in honor of the 2022 USA Games.

**First Leg:** Thursday, May 26th, in Dalton, Georgia at 2:30 pm. Runners will be running from Dalton City Hall to Lakeshore Park.

**Second Leg:** Friday, May 27th in Brookhaven, Georgia at 11:30 am. Runners will be running from LA Fitness in Town Brookhaven to the green space.

**Final Leg:** Friday, May 27th, in Atlanta, Georgia at 7:30 pm. Runners will be running from Eagle Row to McDonough Field at Emory University.

Thank You all Final Leg Sponsors:
- H3 Real Estate Advisors, LLC
- The Deguire Family
- Publix
- Controlled Products
- The Recreational Group
- Knight Appraisal Group, LLC
- Idealease
- SIEMENS
- Inwood Holdings
- NAI Brannen Goddard
- Daniel Levison
- Corporate Events Unlimited
- Emory University
Mark Your Calendars

Healthy Athletes
Stop by our Healthy Athletes booths at Summer Games, May 28th.

Healthy Athletes at Summer Games
Coaches, Parents, and Athletes!
Visit our Healthy Athletes Disciplines from 9:00AM-2:30PM
Special Smiles and Opening Eyes clinicians will be in the Woodruff P.E. Center
Fit Feet clinician will be on McDonough Field next to Olympic Town
The first 50 participants at each discipline will receive a Chick-fil-A gift card! Attending a discipline enters you for a chance to win an Xbox One X!

If you are interested in volunteering or becoming a clinical director please contact matthew.balte@specialolympicsga.org

2022 Youth Forum
For more info about the 2022 Youth Forum event, please contact Stephanie Bailey at: Stephanie.Bailey@specialolympicsga.org or (229) 506-9900

Med Fest 2022
For more information about Med Fest 2022, please contact Matthew Balte at Matthew.Balte@SpecialOlympicsGa.org or (770)-414-9390 ext. 1111
Mark Your Calendars

Shoot For Champions

For more info about the Georgia Natural Gas Shoot for Champions event, please contact Matthew Balte at: Matthew.Balte@specialolympicsga.org or (770)-414-9390 ext. 1111.

2022 State Fall Games

Come down south to Valdosta, GA on October 7-9, 2022 to support over 1200 delegates as they compete throughout the weekend! Athletes and Unified Partners will compete in the sports of Bocce, Golf hole play, Softball Skills and Softball Team Play.

27th Annual Bob Busse Memorial Golf Classic

Come tee it up to support Special Olympics Georgia athletes at the 27th Annual Bob Busse Golf Classic! The event is taking place on November 7th, 2022 at the Atlanta Country Club. For more information about participation or sponsorship, please contact Robert Yost at Robert.Yost@specialolympicsga.org or (770) 414-9390 ext. 1104.
Thank you to 2022 Duck Pluck Sponsors!

When you adopt a duck, you support Special Olympics athletes. The Duck Pluck will take place on, September 21st at the Special Olympics Georgia office. For more information about the 2022 Duck Pluck please contact Sarah Galbraith sarah.galbraith@specialolympicsga.org or (770) 414 9390 ext. 1113

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Duck Pluck 2022

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Thank you to 2022 Duck Pluck Sponsors!
**Athlete of the Month**

Nathan Tekle. He has competed in basketball - team skills and is currently practicing soccer skills. Nathan has been making big improvements on his basketball and soccer skills and is quite the leader during practices and at the Special Olympics events. He shows "great" sportsmanship on the field and off; cheering for his teammates when it is their turn to play. Nathan also helps his coach with some of the younger athletes by repeating any directions I have said or helping them with a skill they are having trouble with. Coach Sockwell says Nathan’s family is very proud of Nathan and looks forward to seeing him participate in Special Olympics all the time!

**Volunteer of the Month**

Jerry Underwood

Coach Underwood was an extremely instrumental part of the Stephens County Special Olympics. When asked if he would be willing to help with the track events, Coach Underwood excitedly offered to take care of all aspects of the running events for the day.

The track events ran like clockwork thanks to his organization and dedication to Special Olympics. Coach Underwood was the 'starter' for each race, but his greatest role was loudly cheering the athletes on as they ran down the track! Coach Underwood is a great asset to Stephens County Special Olympics, and we are looking forward to working with him for many years.
Sponsor Spotlight

Special Olympics Georgia is proud to announce that Rooms To Go Children’s Fund is once again the Lucky Duck Sponsor of the 2022 Duck Pluck!! When Rooms To Go opened its first set of doors in 1991, the way people bought furniture was changed forever. Since then, Rooms To Go has grown into America's #1 independent furniture company with the nation's largest furniture inventory. Rooms To Go offers stylish furniture at everyday low prices, original room packages, superior service, and fast delivery. Walk into any Rooms To Go showroom and discover the ease of one-stop decorating. As the leading furniture company in America, millions of customers have enjoyed the entire Rooms To Go package as a more convenient, enjoyable, and affordable way to shop for furniture. “Special Olympics Georgia appreciates Rooms To Go for their genuine belief in the athletes and for being big fans of the athlete's many accomplishments,” Georgia Milton-Sheats, Chief Executive Officer.

Thank you Rooms To Go Children’s Fund for your continued friendship and for helping to make our athletes’ dreams come true!
Special Olympics Georgia is saying "Thank You" to our amazing volunteers who continuously dedicate their time and resources to our organization and athletes. Athletes become champions thanks to you so, Thank You!

Thank you, Local Coordinators!

SOGA is sending our most sincere "Thank You" to our 213 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!
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.
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

Click here to start shopping.

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!