THUMBS UP FOR YOU...

Congratulations to all athletes who participated in State Summer Games & State Horse Show! Thank you to all coaches, volunteers, Law Enforcement Torch Runners & agencies, GOC members, and all sponsors who made games possible this year!

SOGA EVENTS

DUCK PLUCK

Make a splash for the 17,429 athletes of SOGA.

With your duck adoption, you will not only be entered into the raffle to win awesome prizes, but you will be sending an athlete to Games! The pluck will be on Friday, September 21th at Special Olympics Georgia office in Norcross.

*You do not need to be present to win*

ADOPT YOUR DUCK HERE!
Come join the Special Olympics for a guided 75-minute virtual wine tasting on July 21st at 8:30 pm with In Good Taste Wines! It’s the perfect Thursday evening activity to end the day or start your night, and ALL proceeds go towards Special Olympics. Please help make this a record-breaking event for Special Olympics and our athletes.

Each package of wine includes six mini bottles of wine curated by a designated Wine expert, available at $100. Our event will take place virtually on July 21st, 2022. We would love for you to attend this wonderful event and any additional donations would be greatly appreciated to ensure this becomes a record-breaking event.

Join us July 15th at, the Special Olympics Georgia, Norcross office for Med Fest 2022. Athletes will receive Health & Fit Feet screenings, sports, training, participate in crafts, and enjoy lunch. For more information contact Matthew Balte at Matthew.Balte@SpecialOlympicsGa.org or by calling (770) 414-9390 ext. 1111.
Join us July 10th-12th for the 2022 Youth Forum taking place at the Special Olympics Georgia, Norcross office. Youth Forum is a 2-day, where Athletes and Partners 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 or to apply to attend, email Stephanie Bailey at Stephanie.Bailey@SpecialOlympicsGA.org or by calling (229) 506-9900.

Please join Special Olympics Georgia and Georgia Natural Gas for the 9th Annual Shoot for Champions Event, benefiting Special Olympics Georgia athletes! The event will take place on August 19, 2022 at Garland Mountain Sporting Clays and Grill. If you are interested in registering to shoot or to become a sponsor, please contact Matthew Balte at Matthew.Balte@specialolympicsga.org or at (770) 414-9390 ext. 1111.
2022 State Fall Games

Come down south to Valdosta, GA on October 7-9, 2022 to support over 1700 delegates as they compete throughout the weekend! Athletes and Unified Partners will compete in the sports of Bocce, Golf, Softball Skills, Clinics, 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.

Presented By: Ryan

Silent Auction Items

For Silent Auction donations please contact Matthew Balte at Matthew.Balte@SpecailOlympicsGa.org.
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Volunteer & Athlete of the Month

Volunteer of the Month – June
Lashunda Hall

Lashunda Hall is one of our most loved volunteers. Lashunda works with various classes in our district at First Tee Augusta to help develop our athlete’s golf skills. Lashunda brings a wealth of knowledge to our adapted PE programs and our athletes LOVE her style of teaching them the game of Golf.

Lashunda has been a part of The First Tee organization for 12 years. Lashunda is the Program Director, at First Tee Augusta. Lashunda earned a B. A. Degree in Social Work from Augusta State University. Columbia County School District and Athletes Love Coach Lashunda!

Athlete of the Month - June
Tyler Swartz

Tyler came to Greenbrier High School from New York and was a super quiet young man. Over time the true Tyler overcame his shyness. He has the kindest heart and treats all he meets with respect. Tyler has a great sense of humor that keeps people laughing and he has an outstanding memory for all kinds of fun facts. Tyler will be graduating this year! Tyler was selected to recite the Pledge of Allegiance at our local Special Olympics. Tyler excelled during his events at his local games this year as well. Tyler is very competitive and gives 100% always. He has excelled this year in many of our community activities as well. He is an excellent bowler not to mention his awesome Golf swing. Tyler is an amazing athlete and will be missed after graduation!
Platinum State Sponsor

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 improve 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 focus on those global pillars where The Coca-Cola Company can make a unique and sustainable difference: women, water, well-being, and community.

As a State Platinum Sponsor, 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, create value, and make a difference – into action through its support of SOGA and its athletes. Coca-Cola truly believes in making a difference, especially among athletes.

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

If you have any questions about volunteering please contact Courtney Payne or Hannah Creasey.
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 Coronavirus 2019**: 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® 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.

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