We want to say another sincere thank you to all athletes, coaches, partners, volunteers, and sponsors who cheered on Team Georgia at USA Games 2022!

**Team Georgia Medal Count**

- Gold: 17
- Silver: 21
- Bronze: 22
Mark Your Calendars

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.

Come join the Special Olympics for a guided 75-minute virtual wine tasting, with wine shipped to you, on July 21st at 8:30 pm with In Good Taste Wines! For more information about the event, please contact Jenna at Jenna.Osenbaugh@specialolympicsga.org

The 27th Annual Bob Busse Memorial Golf Classic is set to take place on Nov. 7th. For more information, please contact Robert Yost at: robert.yost@specialolympicsga.org or 229-834-3434.

Presented By: Ryan®
Mark Your Calendars

Starting August 8th, Special Olympics Georgia is walking with a mission! We aim to keep athletes, their families, and our community partners active, while fund raising for upcoming state games. Let's get prepared by making teams or signing up individually for the Pledge Walk. If you sign up with a local Agency, 50% of the fundraising will benefit them directly. Prizes for highest step count and fundraiser will be announced at the beginning of the walk, so get ready to step into the leaders circle!

Please join us in encouraging and athlete to stay active during the summer in between State and Local Games by pledging to donate for each mile walked or run this Summer.

If there are any questions, contact Jenna at jenna.osenbaugh@specialolympicsga.org or at (770) 414-9390 ext 1105.
Mark Your Calendars

State Fall Games

Come down south to Valdosta, GA on October 7-9, 2022 to support over 1,800 delegates as they compete throughout the weekend! Athletes and Unified Partners will compete in the sports of Bocce, Golf hole play, Softball Skills, Cycling and Softball Team Play.

For more information about State Fall Games or to become a sponsor contact Meredith Elizabeth Crum at MEC@SpecialOlympicsGa.org

Interested in volunteering with Special Olympics Georgia at State Fall Games?
Contact Thomas Ritch at Thomas.Ritch@SpecialOlympicsGa.org

Presented By:

We Need You Volunteers!
We are thrilled to announce Special Olympics Georgia was able to screen 100 athletes at State Summer Games!

- 30 athletes received dental cleanings through Special Smiles with help of Dr. Dubin and the Georgia Dental Association
- 35 athletes received optometry screenings and glasses through Opening Eyes and the help of Dr. Rouw and optometry volunteers.
- 34 athletes were screened through Fit Feet with the help of Dr. Spector and podiatry volunteers.

Special Olympic Georgia athletes are not only champions but also healthy athletes! Make sure to join us at the Norcross office, on July 15th for Med Fest 2022!

For more information please contact Matthew Balte at Matthew.Balte@SpecialOlympicsGa.org or 770-414-9390 ext. 1111.

State Fall Games
Join us at State Fall Games in Valdosta healthy athletes for health promotion, opening eyes, and special smiles, October 7th - 9th.

Fall Med Fest 2022

NOVEMBER 10, 2022 9:00AM - 2:00PM 6046 FINANCIAL DRIVE NORCROSS, GA 30071
Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the founder of Special Olympics, was a pioneer in the worldwide struggle for rights and acceptance for people with intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics Georgia celebrates Eunice Kennedy Shriver on her birthday, July 10th, for her dedication and ingenuity to include everyone through competition and athletics.

"I challenge each of you to further my mother's work and vision — reach out to a person with intellectual disabilities who every day is looking for hope, love and opportunity."

TIMOTHY SHRIVER, CHAIRMAN, SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Challenge friends and family to the pledge and choose to include. Forward this month’s Georgia Champion newsletter to those you know to get them involved with Special Olympics Georgia.
2022 MEDICAL INCENTIVE

Offering athletes the opportunity to participate in SOGA!

RUNNING:
NOW THROUGH NOVEMBER 1ST

Any registered Agency that sends in the new medical packet, which includes the medical form, release form, 2 health history forms, and the COVID 19 & Communicable Disease Waiver to register a new athlete or to re-register an athlete whose form expired on or prior December 31st, 2021, the Agency will receive a check from SOGA in the amount of $7.00 per medical packet.

Agencies submitting 30 medicals in July will receive a VISA gift card!

For more information, contact David Crawford at David.Crawford@specialolympicsga.org
Athlete of the Month

Jill Cramer came to BEATS in August 2021 to participate in the therapy program. A hard worker who is always smiling, she was asked to join the Cherokee County Equestrian Team and eagerly took a spot on the team. On therapy days she would talk non-stop about the team practices and all she was doing. The team’s favorite event is Unified, and it was Jill who chose their theme of Descendants which ended up being a blast! Jill competed in three classes at the State Horse Show - trail, equitation, and Unified Partners and earned gold for all three! But it was the smile glued to her face, her enthusiasm, team spirit, and hard work that made her a great Olympian. She embodies what it is to be a Special Olympian. We couldn’t be prouder of Jill!

Volunteer of the Month

Lieutenant Ricky Long has been a valued member and volunteer for the Dalton Police Department and Special Olympics Dalton/Whitfield program for 22 years. As the liaison for the Dalton Police Department and Special Olympics, he has participated in local torch run events and fundraising activities including Polar Plunge. He is also a volunteer at the local games in Dalton for track and field, basketball, and bowling, running with athletes carrying the flame, and presenting the American Flag for the opening ceremony. Recently, he coordinated the USA Torch Run for the flame to come through Dalton on its way to the 2022 USA Games. Ricky’s dedication has truly led to a strong sense of partnership with the local athletes, volunteers, and team Special Olympics Georgia.
American Honda Motor Company, Inc. prides itself on being an organization that sees the world not as it is, but as it could be. They dream of a better future not only in the realm of creating quality and innovative products for consumers but for society as a whole. Through a broad range of community initiatives, charitable giving, foundation grants, and volunteerism, Honda seeks to create value for society and bring joy to people’s lives.

Living by the motto, “The Power of Dreams,” American Honda Motor Company, Inc. has been helping to power the dreams of our Special Olympians for 28 years. Beginning with their first contribution in 1991, the relationship has quickly grown into one that is substantial, appreciated, and most of all, irreplaceable.

The SOGA athletes who attend the Summer Games at Emory University recognize American Honda Motor Company, Inc. and their volunteers from Olympic Town. A dedicated group, the Honda volunteers truly go above and beyond in their commitment to making Olympic Town fun and memorable experience for all of the athletes that pass through. In addition to their financial support, the Honda team works diligently in the months leading up to the Summer Games planning and purchasing supplies for their famous t-shirt painting booth.

SOGA is very proud and grateful to be part of American Honda Motor Company Inc.’s vision for the future. Thank you to all of our friends and “dreamers” at American Honda Motor Company, Inc.!
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
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**

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!