

Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be
brave in the attempt.

Special Olympics athlete oath

**Special
Olympics**
Oklahoma



Mission of Special Olympics

The mission of Special Olympics is 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 a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.



History of Special Olympics

Special Olympics was founded by Eunice Kennedy Shriver and was created in 1968 by the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation. The first International Special Olympics Games were held in 1968 at Soldier Field in Chicago.

There are programs in all 50 states with over 4.6 million athletes in more than 170 countries. The program is operated by Special Olympics Inc., a non-profit organization located in Washington DC.

Oklahoma's first Special Olympics competition was held in 1969. In 1972 Special Olympics Oklahoma was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Special Olympics Oklahoma is authorized and accredited by Special Olympics, Inc., for the benefit of citizens with intellectual disabilities.

Today, Special Olympics Oklahoma benefits 11,600 athletes and is supported by over 1,700 volunteer coaches and thousands of sponsors, donors and volunteers conducting more than 140 sports competitions and training clinics every year.



Find out how you can become a part of
the Special Olympics
Oklahoma family.

For more information contact:
1.800.722.9004 or 918.481.1234
www.sook.org

Created by the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation.
Authorized and Accredited by Special Olympics, Inc.,
for the Benefit of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities.



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THE GOAL

The goal of Special Olympics is for all persons with intellectual disabilities to have the opportunity to become useful and productive citizens who are accepted and respected by their families, friends and in their communities.



THE BENEFITS



Athletes carry the benefits from their involvement in Special Olympics with them in their daily lives at home, in the classroom, on the job and in the community. Families are strengthened and the community increases its understanding, acceptance and respect of these individuals.

- Physical, social and psychological development
- Improved physical fitness and motor skills
- Greater self confidence
- Positive self-image
- Friendships and increased family support

UNIFIED SPORTS®

The Unified Sports program brings together people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team for sports training and competition. Unified Sports fosters the integration of persons with intellectual disabilities into schools and community programs and expands sports opportunities for athletes seeking new challenges and dramatically increases inclusion in the community.

THE PROGRAM



Special Olympics Oklahoma develops and administers a year-round sports training and competition program throughout Oklahoma for more than 11,600 athletes ages 8 years and above.

Programs across the state are administered by Area Management Teams, from 14 geographic areas comprised of volunteers who work

year-round to plan, organize and conduct sports training and competition events for athletes and coaches in their area.

Special Olympics athletes are divisioned by age, gender and ability level, designed to give each athlete a reasonable chance to win.

THE SPORTS

Special Olympics Oklahoma offers competition in the following sports:

Athletics	Powerlifting
Basketball*^	Soccer*
Bocce*	Softball*^
Bowling*	Swimming
Equestrian	Volleyball*^
Flag Football*	Alpine/Cross Country Skiing
Golf	Snowshoeing
Horseshoes*	Speedskating

* Sports that include Unified competition. Unified Sports® bring together people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team for sports training and competition.

^ Sports that include skills competition in addition to team play.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS



Motor Activities Training Program

Young Athletes Program (2-6)

Junior Athletes Program (7-8)

VOLUNTEERS

Special Olympics Oklahoma is a volunteer driven program. More than 10,000 volunteers provide manpower for events across the state.



- Businesses
- Civic, senior, youth groups
- Corporations
- High schools, colleges, universities
- Service organizations
- Sports associations
- Law Enforcement personnel
- Individuals

Volunteers can become involved by coaching an athlete, serving on an Area Management Team, being a Partner on a Unified Team, helping to serve the areas of public relations and fundraising, providing office support or performing the multitude of tasks necessary to run competition events.

SUPPORT

Special Olympics is a non-profit organization funded through donations from corporations, foundations, civic groups, and individuals.

To find out how you can join the team as a volunteer, donor, or sponsor contact the state office in Tulsa.

