



**Special Olympics**  
Michigan

# Special Olympics Michigan

## Area 9 – Bay and Arenac Counties

### Special Olympics Michigan Facts

20,679 athletes

23 sports offered

8 state-level competitions, statewide regional basketball tournaments and more than 400 area-level competitions

Training and competitions are year-round

20,000 volunteers

Program provided at no cost to athletes or their families

Budget funded entirely by private donations

### Area 9 Facts

225 athletes

100 volunteers

### Area 9 offers the following sports programs:

Alpine Skiing  
Aquatics  
Athletics (Track & Field)  
Basketball  
Bowling  
Cross-Country  
Skiing  
Cycling  
Soccer  
Snowshoe  
Softball  
Volleyball

### OUR MISSION

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.

### OUR GOAL

To help persons with intellectual disabilities participate as productive and respected members of society at large, by offering them a fair opportunity to develop and demonstrate their skills and talents through sports training and competition, and by increasing the public's awareness of their capabilities and needs.

### THE BENEFITS

Athletes who participate in Special Olympics improve physical fitness and motor skills, develop self-esteem and confidence, make friends and increase family support. Special Olympics athletes carry these benefits with them into their daily lives at home, in the classroom and on the job. Families become stronger as they learn a greater appreciation of their athlete's abilities and community volunteers find out what a good friend athletes can be.

### FUNDING

Special Olympics Michigan is a non-profit organization supported almost entirely by private funding and without the support of state funds. Generosity of organizations, individuals, and businesses enable the program to continue, which was a \$6.2 million effort in 2010. Area 9 has an annual budget of \$35,000 that funds year-round programs for the athletes.

### GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

Special Olympic programs are offered in all 83 counties in Michigan. Area 9 encompasses all of Bay and Arenac Counties. Area 9 currently has an average of 225 athletes involved in the program.

### VOLUNTEERS

More than 20,000 volunteers contribute their time, energy and expertise to make the Special Olympics program a reality in Michigan. Area 9 relies on the dedicated support of more than 100 volunteers who offer their time and talents in a number of ways, including coaching, chaperoning athletes at events, assisting with fund raising, and helping run local events and games.

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Special Olympics Michigan training and competition is open to every person with intellectual disabilities who registers to participate in Special Olympics as required by the Special Olympics General Rules.

### AREA 9 MANAGEMENT TEAM

Barb Gourd, Area Director  
Donna Rosebush, Asst. Area Director  
Bob Johnston, Accounting  
Mary Pearsall, Funds Development  
Kayla Courneya, Funds Development  
Kelly Hair, Medical  
Bob Steff, Medical  
Dave Pruder, Public Relations  
Janelle Miller, Outreach  
Brad Covaleski, Outreach  
Charlie Gourd, Coach Representative  
Amy Rosebush, Volunteer Rep.  
Betty Dabrowski, ARC Representative  
Debbie Cherry, School Liaison

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