

TO: Special Education Teachers/Program Coordinators
FROM: Anne Goudie, Director, Special Olympics Michigan – Area 8
RE: 2011-2012 Special Olympics Events

Welcome to the start of the 2011-2012 Special Olympics program year. We hope you had a healthy and happy summer.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY SPECIAL OLYMPIC EVENT DURING THE 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR:

1. **RETURN** the **Program Participation Form** to the Area 8 Office by **September 22, 2011**. We must have this form so that we can budget for the coming year.
2. IF YOU DO NOT RETURN THE PROGRAM PARTICIPATION FORM YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE INFORMATION FOR SPECIAL OLYMPIC EVENTS!!

HOW YOU CAN CONTACT SPECIAL OLYMPICS MICHIGAN - AREA 8

The Area 8 office is located at the Beekman Center, 2901 Wabash Rd., Lansing, MI 48910. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM–4:00 PM. The phone number is 517-887-1175, FAX 517-755-3179, email address somia8@aol.com. We will follow the Lansing School District calendar and the office will be closed on days when Lansing schools are not in session.

Anne Goudie, Director, Area 8 office, 517-887-1175 ext. 10, or email agspecolym@aol.com

Dale Dodds, Assistant Director/ Eaton County Coordinator, Area 8 office 887-1175 ext. 12, home 517-543-1739, or email vdd@broadstripe.net.

Meredith Dimaria, Area 8 Sports Program coordinator, Area 8 office 517-887-1175 ext. 11, or email meredithda8@aol.com.

Ann Welling, Area 8 office 517-887-1175 ext. 13, somia8@aol.com

The Lansing Adapted Physical Education Department is located in the Beekman Center. You may reach Mark Hayes, markhayes52@gmail.com, or Allison Wonch, alliwonch@comcast.net, at 517-755-5731

ATHLETE APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION

In order to participate in **ANY** State Special Olympics event **ALL** athletes must have a current Application for Participation form on file at the Area 8 office. APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION forms are valid for three (3) years from the date signed by the physician. All information needs to be filled out completely. **Please use the form that is dated 05-20-08 in the bottom right corner. Please throw away any forms that do not have this date.** Forms are available at the office, you can duplicate the enclosed Application for Participation form as needed.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS MICHIGAN – AREA 8 WEB SITE AND EMAIL

Special Olympics Michigan has a web site where Area 8 can post information about Special Olympics events. You will be able to download forms, see the calendar of events, and much more. The web site address is; www.somi.org. Go to “Area pages”, select Area 8 in the drop down box “select area number”. You can also send us email at somia8@aol.com. If you have an email address please include it on the Program Registration form.

PARTICIPATION

All special education students may participate in Local Events such as bowling, track, gymnastics, swimming, etc. PLEASE refer to the enclosed eligibility statement when selecting athletes for State Events. If you have eligibility questions, please call the Special Olympics office.

STATE TOURNAMENT ATHLETE SELECTION PROCESS

The number of athletes who participate in State events is based on the allotment that is given to Area 8 from SOMI. Usually a local school or program is allotted only 2 or 3 spots. Basketball and Poly Hockey teams are sent to the state tournament on a rotation basis. State Winter games are for athletes who are in middle school or older. State Summer games are a good time to select younger athletes and athletes who have higher needs.

CHAPERONES

It is always difficult to secure chaperones for state events. PLEASE SERIOUSLY consider attending a state event as a chaperone. IF THERE ARE NO CHAPERONES, IT MEANS ATHLETES CANNOT GO!!! We always need volunteers to help at events. If you have parents who are interested in helping, please have them contact the Special Olympics office.

VOLUNTEER A FORM

All Coaches and Chaperones are required to complete and return to the Area 8 office the Volunteer A form. They must be sent to the Area 8 office prior to the event that the volunteer is attending. Please use the form that is dated 12-07-06 in the bottom right corner. Please throw away any forms that do not have this date. Coaches and Chaperones need to view the Protective Behaviors and General Session information available on the SOMI website, www.somi.org. They will also need to complete the short quiz online or it is also available at the Area 8 office. Volunteer A forms, Protective Behaviors and General session quizzes are valid for three (3) years. If you have any questions about volunteering, please contact the Area 8 office 517-887-1175.

HEALTH APPRAISAL CLINICS

Each year we have health appraisal clinics. There is NO CHARGE for the physicals and transportation assistance may be available. Information will be sent to schools once dates have been scheduled.

COMPETITION CALENDAR

The Area 8 Special Olympics 2011-2012 calendar of events is included with this packet of information. It is our hope that dates and venues sites will not change. Sometimes events need to be changed for circumstances beyond our control. We will let you know as soon as possible if an event has been changed.

FUNDRAISING

Local community fundraising provides funds for the Special Olympics Michigan–Area 8 program yearly. We DO NOT receive any funding from the local school systems, state or federal monies. Our yearly budget is nearly \$400,000.00 per year and we must **RAISE IT EVERY YEAR!** Your assistance with fundraising is vital to the success of our program.

2012 CALENDAR

The 2012 calendars will be selling for \$10.00 each. The calendar has pictures of Area 8 athletes at Special Olympics events. Calendars will be available in September. Poly Hockey and 27+ Bowlers are encouraged to help with this fundraiser.

COFFEE BEANERY FUNDRAISER

This fundraiser has athlete's coaches and chaperones taking orders for great products from the Coffee Beanery. Basketball and Spring Sports athletes are encouraged to help with this fundraiser.

BINGO

Special Olympics Area 8 has a weekly Bingo every Monday and Tuesday night at Jackpots Bingo Hall on Cedar Street across from the K-Mart store in Lansing. Come and have fun while you play Bingo or volunteer to work a couple of nights. Please contact the office if you can help.

Empties4cash

Recycle and help raise funds for Area 8 at the same time. Special Olympics Michigan – Area 8 is participating in the "Empties4cash" ink cartridge recycling program. Please recycle your empty ink cartridges and help Area 8 earn cash. Ink cartridges can be dropped off at the Area 8 office. Please call the Area 8 office if you have any questions

REMEMBER

**SEND PROGRAM PARTICIPATION FORM TO THE
AREA 8 SPECIAL OLYMPICS OFFICE BY
SEPTEMBER 22, 2011**

ENCLOSURES

Program Participation Form
Event Registration and Due Dates
SOMI Athlete Application for Participation Form
Area 8 Fact Sheet

2011-2012 Calendar of Events
Eligibility for Participation Information
SOMI Volunteer "A" Form
Area 8 Sponsor A Champ