



2018 Winter Games Volunteer Guide





Volunteer Information

Inspire, laugh, and celebrate at the 2018 State Winter Games in Traverse City! The Special Olympics movement is changing lives every day. Thanks to thousands of committed volunteers, Michigan has been able to provide one of the best sports programs in the country! Being a volunteer for Special Olympics Michigan is an honor and privilege. It is known by all new volunteers that after your first experience at Winter Games you often become “hooked on SOMI”. We are very proud of our program and athletes, but this would not be possible without the support and hard work of people like you.

FACTS ABOUT WINTER GAMES:

- Approximately 900 athletes and coaches along with more than 800 volunteers
- Events held at the following locations:

Schuss Mountain

Alpine Skiing
Cross-Country Skiing
Snowboarding
Outdoor Special Events

Grand Traverse Resort

Snowshoe
Indoor Special Events
Outdoor Special Events
Opening/Closing Ceremonies

Howe Arena

Figure Skating
Speed Skating

Venue Addresses:

Schuss Mountain at Shanty Creek Resort
One Shanty Creek Rd
Bellaire, MI 49615

Grand Traverse Resort
100 Grand Traverse Resort Village Boulevard
Acme, MI 49610

Howe Arena
1125 West Civic Center Drive
Traverse City, Michigan 49686



Volunteer Report Times

Upon arrival for your event, you'll want to report to the Nerve Center/Volunteer check-in for the first time. At the Nerve Center you will receive your volunteer wristband (meal ticket). The Nerve Center at Grand Traverse Resort is located inside the lobby, at Schuss Mountain it is located to the left of the bus area. Once you have checked in you can go directly to your event site. At the event site, look for the volunteer check-in volunteer in the bright pink shirt; they will provide more information on your assignment for the day and introduce you to your Games Committee Members.

ALPINE/SNOWBOARD

Schuss Village

Wednesday	7:45 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Thursday	7:45 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Friday	7:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

CROSS COUNTRY

Schuss Village

Wednesday	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Thursday	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Friday	8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

SKATING

Howe Arena

Wednesday	7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Thursday	7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

SNOWSHOE

Grand Traverse Resort

Wednesday	7:45 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Thursday	7:45 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Friday	7:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

OUTDOOR SPECIAL EVENTS

Grand Traverse Resort

Wednesday	8:45 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Thursday	8:45 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

INDOOR SPECIAL EVENTS

Grand Traverse Resort

Tuesday	5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Wednesday	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Thursday	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.



General Information

NERVE Center

NERVE Center is the information headquarters for the Games.

In order to keep you up to date during the games the NERVE Center will update the Special Olympics Michigan Facebook page. This includes: weather conditions, schedule changes, etc. The NERVE Center is located in the Michigan Ballroom E at Grand Traverse Resort. The NERVE Center is open at the following times:

Tuesday 9am-10pm

Wednesday 7am-10pm (GTR)

Thursday 7am-10pm (GTR)

Friday 7am-1pm (GTR)

Wednesday 8am-5pm (Schuss)

Thursday 8am-5pm (Schuss)

Friday 8am-Noon (Schuss)

Nerve Center Phone Number: 231-534-6875

Meal Times

Provided for the day(s) you are volunteering only:

Tuesday–Dinner: 4:30pm-6:30pm @ GTR

Wednesday–Breakfast: 6:00am-8:00am @ GTR

Wednesday–Lunch: 11:00am-1:30pm @ Venue Site

Wednesday–Dinner: 4:00pm-6:00pm @ GTR

Thursday–Breakfast: 6:00am-8:00am @ GTR

Thursday–Lunch: 11:00am-1:30pm @ Venue Site

Thursday–Dinner: 4:30pm-6:30pm @ GTR

Friday–Breakfast: 6:00am-8:00am @ GTR

Transportation- There is a shuttle that will transport volunteers from Grand Traverse Resort to Schuss Mountain and Howe Arena that leaves at 6:55 a.m. To catch the bus, go to the GTR lobby doors.



Ultimate Packing List

The following is a list of important items to pack. This way you won't even forget your toothbrush!

- ◇ Outdoor Accessories (gloves, hat, scarves)
- ◇ Outerwear (Winter Jacket, snow pants, **warm boots**)
- ◇ Warm Clothes
- ◇ Casual Clothes and shoes (for indoor activities)
- ◇ Chap stick & Sunglasses
- ◇ Snowboard and/or ski's
- ◇ Money
- ◇ I.D.
- ◇ Hand Warmers
- ◇ A smiling face and warm heart
- ◇ Layers

DON'T DRESS TO IMPRESS. DRESS SMART!!!!



General FAQ

Q: Is there housing?

A: Unfortunately we have limited space at the resort so we do not provide housing for volunteers. However, we do have a list of places to stay (see below).

Q: Do I have to volunteer the entire time?

A: No. Just make note on your registration form and let your Games Committee member know you will be leaving early or arriving late and what time that will take place.

Q: Do you have to be 21 to go to the volunteer appreciation gatherings?

A: No. But you do need to have your I.D./license.

Q: When is the volunteer/Games Committee bonding? Do we have to attend?

A: Tuesday Night; time TBD and attendance is not mandatory.

Q: What's my responsibility at games?

A: While you may have a variety of roles at the games your overarching responsibility is to serve the athletes.

Q: If I don't have Ski's or a board. Where can I get one?

A: You may rent them at the hill free of charge.

Q: What should I wear to volunteer?

A: Please feel free to dress casual, jeans, warm ups, shorts and a t-shirt. Always have raingear ready!

Q: Will I receive a volunteer t-shirt?

A: Volunteer t-shirts are given out on a first come, first serve basis, chances are good you will receive your shirt!

Q: What time should I be at my volunteer site?

A: Volunteers should show up to their site at the times listed previously.

Q: Who should I talk to if I have a question during my event?

A: Volunteers should ask their games committee person if they have any event questions. Your games committee member is the person in charge of your event



Available Housing

Americ Inn Motel & Suites
231-938-0288 or 800-634-3444

Baymont Inn & Suites
231-933-4454

Bayshore Resort
231-935-4400 or 800-634-4401

Beach Condo Hotels
231-938-2228

Best Western Four Seasons Motel
231-946-8424 or 800-823-7844

Cherry Tree Condo Hotel
231-938-8888 or 800-439-3093

Courtyard Traverse City
231-929-1800 or 800-321-2211

Days Inn & Suites
231-941-0208 or 800-982-3297

Economy Inn
231-938-2080

Grand Beach Resort Hotel
231-938-4455 or 800-968-1992

Grand Traverse Motel
231-947-9410

Hampton Inn
231-946-8900 or 800-426-7866

Holiday Inn
231-947-3700 or 800-888-8020

Knights Inn
231-944-1554 or 800-843-5644

Knollwood Motel
231-938-2040

North Shore Inn
231-938-2365 or 800-968-2365

Parkshore Resort
231-947-3800 or 877-349-8898

Pinestead Reef Resort
231-947-4010

Pointes North Inn
231-938-9191 or 800-968-3422

Sleep Inn
231-938-7000

Schuss / Shanty Creek
231-533-8621

Sugar Beach
231-938-0100 or 800-509-1995

For more information please contact Kellie Murphy at murph4kj@cmich.edu or 989-774-3911 or visit the Special Olympics State office on the campus of Central Michigan University.



Tips for Volunteering

- **Be yourself!** Our athletes are excited to interact with our volunteers; most favorite moments had by our volunteers are a simple conversation with one of our athletes, or cheering on a local team from their hometown! Embrace the experience!
- **No job is too small! Be enthusiastic with your role!** Volunteer roles range from set up, Timing, staging athletes, cheering on the athletes and scorekeeping. Whether you are assisting athletes in and out of the pool, or cheering an athlete on during their race or congratulating them when they finish; each role is extremely important to our athlete's experience.
- **Be respectful.** Most of us take for granted experiences like traveling away from home, going to a sporting event, meeting new people, or being recognized for a special achievement. For some of our athletes, events like the Summer Games are the only time they have these experiences. They look forward to these competitions for the whole year and some are so excited, they can't sleep the night before!
- **Our athletes are both children and adults.** A common misconception is that Special Olympics is for children only. The average age of athletes in Special Olympics Michigan is 27 years old. Please refer to the athletes as "athletes," "participants" or "Special Olympics athletes".



Media/Social Media

- We urge you to help us spread the excitement of Special Olympics Michigan! You can follow us and contact us through the following forms of media. For more information on the games or to find updates, visit our website at www.somi.org. As a volunteer you are a representative of
- Special Olympics Michigan and our mission. We ask that you utilize social media responsibly when you are in your volunteer role. Thank you.



We encourage you to follow us on Twitter at @SpOlympicsMI using the hashtag #SOMIWG throughout the games!



Follow us on Facebook by 'liking' "Special Olympics Michigan". We will be posting updates and pictures throughout the games



Follow us on Instagram at @SpOlympicsMI. You can post your photos using the hashtag #SOMISG



Download the free Special Olympics App for Apple or Android smartphones. The app will have schedules, photos, & updates pertinent to the 2018 Winter Games