



## Area 34 – Monroe County

### Special Olympics Michigan Facts

27,745 athletes

24 sports offered

6 state-level competitions, 4 district basketball tournaments and more than 600 competitions statewide

Training and competitions are year-round

Program provided at no cost to athletes or their families

### Area 34 Facts

516 athletes

### Area 34 offers the following sports programs:

Alpine Skiing  
Aquatics  
Athletics  
Basketball  
Bocce  
Bowling  
Cross-Country Skiing  
Cycling  
Figure Skating  
Golf  
Poly Hockey  
Powerlifting  
Snowshoeing  
Snowboarding  
Soccer  
Softball  
Speed Skating  
Unified Champion Schools  
Unified Sports  
Volleyball  
Weightlifting

### 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. Generosity of organizations, individuals, and businesses enable the program to continue, which was a \$7.7 million effort in 2016. Area 34 has an annual budget of \$89,895 that funds year-round programs for the athletes.

### GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

Special Olympic programs are offered in all 83 counties in Michigan. Area 34 encompasses all of Monroe County. Area 34 currently has an average of 516 athletes involved in the program.

### VOLUNTEERS

Thousands of volunteers contribute their time, energy and expertise to make the Special Olympics program a reality in Michigan. Area 34 relies on the dedicated support of many 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 34 MANAGEMENT TEAM

Kerry Simmons – Area Director  
Craig Lamb – Athlete Rep.  
Richard Sager – Financial Rep.  
Megan Turner – Fundraising Rep.  
Tammy Lamb – Parent/Family Rep.

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