



Area 6 – Montcalm and Ionia Counties

Special Olympics Michigan Facts

22,777 athletes

24 sports offered

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

Training and competitions are year-round

Program provided at no cost to athletes or their families

Area 6 Facts
603 athletes

Area 6 offers the following sports programs:

Alpine Skiing
Athletics
Bocce
Bowling
Cross-Country Skiing
Cycling
Snowshoeing

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 6 has an annual budget of \$58,242.18 that funds year-round programs for the athletes.

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

Special Olympic programs are offered in all 83 counties in Michigan. Area 6 encompasses all of Montcalm and Ionia Counties. Area 6 currently has an average of 603 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 6 relies on the dedicated support of 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 6 MANAGEMENT TEAM

Richard Nostrant – Area Director & Outreach Rep.
Sandy Sheafer – Assistant Area Director
Jane Wolfe – Assistant Area Director
Jim Sharp – Community Rep.
Rita Jeffrey – Financial Rep.
Fred & Nancy Gradisher- Fund Raising Rep.
Cindy Fettic – Lakeview Schools Local Coordinator
Jody Moyer –Montebella Schools Local Coordinator
Amy Gunderson –Greenville Middle Local Coordinator
Kayla Stephens –Greenville High Local Coordinator
David Seymour – Athlete Rep.
Kim Ritz – Medical Rep.
Jason Christiansen – Parent/Family Rep.



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