What is the Special Olympics?

• Special Olympics is the world's largest sports organization for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, providing year-round training and competitions to more than 5.3 million athletes and Unified Sports partners in nearly 170 countries.
At competitions athletes are placed into divisions based on age, gender, and ability. Competitions take place at local, regional, state, national, and world levels.

For a small investment in sports equipment and volunteers' time, Special Olympics has the potential to become a vehicle for bringing people together, changing attitudes, and engaging a portion of the community that is otherwise forgotten.

In the United States, 52% of Special Olympics athletes are employed; approximately half of these athletes are "competitively employed" - employed alongside people without intellectual disabilities.
Special Olympics - Michigan

• The mission of Special Olympics Michigan is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

• Athletes develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage and experience joy while participating in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship among their families, Special Olympics athletes and the community. The athletes achieve their dreams with the support of caring volunteers, coaches, family members and staff. Donations from Michigan citizens and businesses provide funding for the program.
Special Olympics – Oakland County

• Mission:
  • To provide year-round 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.
Oakland County – Fast Facts

• Sports:
  - Alpine Skiing
  - Aquatics
  - Athletics (Track & Field)
  - Basketball
  - Bocce Ball
  - Bowling
  - Cycling
  - Figure Skating
  - Golf
  - Poly Hockey
  - Softball
  - Snowboard
  - Snowshoe
  - Soccer
  - Speed Skating
  - Volleyball
  - Young Athletes Program (YAP)
  - Unify

• 1,217 athletes

• Eligibility:
  - Special Olympic programs are offered in all 83 counties in Michigan
  - 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
  - The program is offered at no cost to athletes or their families
Why Join?

• Why Not?

• Athletes who participate in Special Olympics
  • Learn things – they improve their physical fitness and motor skills
  • Develop self-esteem and confidence
  • Have fun – they make friends and increase family support
  • Special Olympic athletes carry these benefits with them into their daily lives.
How can I join?
Submit an application to participate – it’s that easy!
It’s All About You!

• Meet new people
• Make new friends
• Develop skills
• Enjoy being part of Special Olympics!

Once you become part of the Special Olympics family, we want to tell your story. . .

• What you like to do
• What you learned
• Your friends
• And More. . .
Hope to see you soon!