

SPORTLIGHT

Spring 2023



Special Olympics
Michigan
Area 30

Published 3 Times/Year

Volume 31 Issue 2

Editor: Mary Adams

2023 SPORTS CALENDAR AREA 30 SPECIAL OLYMPICS

April 1 (Saturday)	Athletics/Bocce Practice Begins
May 13 (Saturday)	Area 9 Track Meet
May 20 (Saturday)	Area 30 Track Meet
May 20 (Saturday)	Area 30 Walk-A-Thon Fundraiser
May 31—June 2 (Wednesday/Friday)	State Summer Games
June 6 (Tuesday/Thursday)	Softball Practice Begins
June 17 (Saturday)	Golf Practice Begins
June 19 (Monday)	Soccer Practice Begins
August 6 (Sunday)	Golf Outing Fundraiser Sandy Ridge Golf Course
August 16 (Wednesday)	Family Hall of Fame Banquet
September 5 (Tuesday/Thursday)	Flag Football Begins
Date TBD	Cycling Practice

AREA DIRECTOR CORNER

Hello everyone! My name is Lisa Schwager, and I started as the Area Director for Area 30 Special Olympics Midland County last November. I hope everyone is doing well!!

Our new Area Management Team (AMT) is in place, and everything is going so good!! We had a successful winter sports season, and we look forward to our Spring/Summer season.

Many athletes have returned to participation in sports, and it has been great seeing you all!

Please check our Area Calendar for upcoming events dates (*if you need a copy, let me know*). Track and Bocce are well underway. Our State Summer Games will be held @ CMU from May 31-June 2. Softball and soccer will start in June. Watch your mail for letters from your coaches.

We are here to assist you if you are interested in any of our programs, in becoming a volunteer or coach, or sponsorship opportunities.

A special thanks to John Muisenga, Ann Gach, and Mary Adams for their assistance and to all of our Special Olympics families and friends. You are all greatly appreciated!!

Our area email is: area30@somi.org. Please use this email for any questions/concerns.

The Special Olympics phone number is: 989-832-9443.

Lisa Schwager, Area Director
4116 Arbor Drive
Midland, MI 48640
989-832-9443
area30@somi.org

John Muisenga, Assistant Area Director
989-859-1595
jamuisenga@charter.net



DISTRICT BASKETBALL RESULTS

Our two male teams—Timberwolves and Celtics—attended the District Basketball Tournament on Friday, March 3 @ CMU. Both the Timberwolves and Celtics brought home the bronze medal (3rd place)!! Congratulations to the athletes on another successful season of competition!

The **Timberwolves** were coached by Lisa Schwager, Tracey Tatum, and Gregg Young. Congratulations to: Konrad Anders, Jameson Baker, Tanner Bowerson, James Brisbois, Eric Chesney, Josh DiMercurio, Kyle Eaton, Jordan Harvey, Jacob Schwager, Austin Shaver, Brad Sheets, and Casey Tomes.

The **Celtics** had a good run @ Districts, losing their first game but coming back from behind to win their second game! Head coaches Jeff Dyer and Jeff Pitt send their congratulations to: Linkon Barringer, Justin Dyer, Silas Pitt, Jack Richardson, Josh Shouse, Matthew Teer, Andy Tudethout, Austin Upton, Adam White, and Andy Young.

CELTICS BASKETBALL

by: Jeff Dyer/Jeff Pitt, Head Coaches

This year's team welcomed three new players - Matthew Teer, Linkon Barringer, and Adam White - giving our team 10 players. The team had a great combination of experienced and new athletes. Each player contributed to the overall success of the Celtics. It was great that we could practice in a full-sized gym again (Jefferson Middle School) and not have to drive a long distance for practices. The athletes worked very hard this year and won the tournament held at Shepherd High School. We hit a slight bump in the road over the following few games, playing some very tough opponents. The Celtics ended the year with four victories and five losses. But we came from behind in our last game beating a tough team from Alma to finish on a great note!

Thank you to **Gregg Young** for scheduling the games, arranging transportation, and working with the schools for gym time. Also, a big THANK YOU to our referees, our scorekeepers, and to the parents and fans for your support and enthusiasm! Last but not least, a big THANK YOU to our spouses for their patience and understanding. We are looking forward to another awesome season in

TIMBERWOLVES BASKETBALL

by: Lisa Schwager, Head Coach

The Timberwolves team had a great season!! We had several returning players and a few new ones. We were undefeated and went into the District Basketball tournament, placed in Division #1 where we brought home bronze medals. AWESOME JOB TIMBERWOLVES!! We are so proud of you; you all played very well.



Thank you to **Gregg Young** for scheduling our season, securing transportation, and refereeing all our games. Thanks to all who helped with the season from coaches to athlete transporters and fans/families in the stands. Thanks for the opportunity to coach these fine athletes! A special thanks to my co-coaches: Tracey Tatum and Gregg Young.

SUPERCATS BASKETBALL

by: Lauren Saj, Head Coach

This year the Super Cats not only grew in size but in confidence as well! We had 15 amazing athletes and 3 coaches. We began the season in January and ended in March. The ladies learned new skills, drills, and techniques. These ladies really showed the true meaning of having good sportsmanship and being a team player. Each practice we would end our practice with an empowering word of how we felt that night, and we never used the same word. We ended this season by sharing a word that wrapped up our season - INSPIRING! We played a total of four games and were able to take 12 ladies to State Games. The progress that these ladies made was amazing! We wrapped up our season with a get-together, and the ladies were able to share their favorite parts of the year. We can't wait to see where next season takes us!

STATE BASKETBALL GAMES

by: Lauren Saj, Head Coach

Basketball State Games were held @ Calvin College in Grand Rapids on March 17. Our team competed in Division #2 against two other strong all-female teams. This was the first opportunity our ladies played an all-female team! The girls played two games, winning one and losing the other. These ladies brought the Silver medal home with pride! Thank you to all our fans that came out to support us at State Games.



REGIONAL BASKETBALL SKILLS TOURNAMENT

By: Sue Crane, Coordinator

On March 7, we hosted our annual Regional Basketball Skills Tournament. There were 11 athletes competing in the following skills: Passing, Speed Dribbling, Shooting, and 10M Dribbling. The athletes were so supportive of each other, and everyone did an awesome job! The competition was great, and everyone truly lived up to the Athlete Oath. And as always, the athletes especially enjoyed receiving medals! Check out all the great pictures on our Facebook page.

A special thanks to Robin Rauner and the **Midland Civitan Club** who, once again, provided refreshments for everyone in attendance. The athletes really look forward to the treats at the end of competition! And an extra thanks to the ladies for setting up and serving. Thank you for your continued support!

Paul/Maria Kalitta - Erica/Joann/Steve/Eric Roy

Thanks for all your work this year! It truly takes a Village to coordinate all of the events each night and at the tournament.

We wish to thank the following volunteers for their assistance with this tournament:

Ruth Muisenga/Tina Kocsis

Thanks for tabulating scores.

Paul/Maria Kalitta, Erica/Joann/Steve/Eric Roy, Sue/Tim Crane/Ann Gach

Thank you for volunteering @ each station. You did a superb job in keeping score and assisting the athletes.

Mary Adams

Thank you for being our announcer and taking/posting pictures.

Maria Kalitta/Joann Roy/ Erica Roy

Thank you for awarding the medals.

Family/Friends/Staff

Thank you for coming to the event and for cheering on the athletes. It really makes a difference to have you there supporting them. And thanks to all the staff that bring the athletes each week. We really appreciate your help!

Siebert Elementary School

Thank you to the staff @ Siebert Elementary School. We so appreciate all you did for us during our season, and thank you for letting us store our basketball hoop there during the season. Thanks to Joann Roy—who has been a long-time coach and volunteer for Special Olympics and also works @ Siebert—for coordinating things for us.

We are blessed to have so many amazing volunteers that helped with this tournament—we could not do it without you!

Following is the award each athlete received.
CONGRATULATIONS on your achievements!!

- Jennifer Banaszak—Gold
- Jacob Crane—Silver
- Jaydenlee Davis—Bronze
- Kevin Davis—Silver
- Colleen Dolan—Silver
- Bruce Fahlgren—Gold
- Gabe Kalitta—Gold
- Carter Roy-Davis—Gold
- Gary Rozinski—Silver
- Tim Spitnale—Silver
- Ricky Warner—Gold



AREA 30 WELCOMES NEW ATHLETES!

Welcome to the following athletes
who have joined our program:

*Lucas Combs
Megan Micsak
Matthew Teer*

SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETE FORM

Is your Special Olympics form up to date? If not, an athlete will not be allowed to compete until the form is current. Forms are available through Lisa Schwager; call her @ 832-9443 to check your form status.





TRACK & FIELD/BOCCE PRACTICES

Track and Bocce practices are held on **Saturday, April 1.8.15.22.29 and May 6.13.** Practices are held from **9:30-12:00 noon** at **Dow High School.** Our head track coach is

Ann Gach; contact Ann @ anngach96@gmail.com if you have track questions. Gregg Young is the head bocce coach. Contact Gregg @ 989-492-2029 if you have bocce questions.

AREA TRACK/BOCCE MEET

Mark your calendars for our Area Track/Bocce meet on **Saturday, May 20 @ Dow High School** from **11:00-3:00 pm.** Athletes from Area 9 will join us. The Sanford Knights of Columbus will provide manpower support. If there is inclement weather, a decision will be made that morning.



AREA 9 TRACK MEET

The Area 9 Track meet is scheduled for **Saturday, May 13 @ Bay City Central High School** from **10:00-3:00 pm.** Ann Gach will notify the athletes attending this meet.

STATE SUMMER GAMES

The State Summer Games will be held on **May 31—June 2 @ CMU.** We are sending a delegation of 60 athletes/volunteers. Athletes will be competing in Athletics, Bocce, and Swimming. For an athlete to attend these games, they must: 1) attend their sports specific practices; 2) participate in our Area Meet; and 3) have a current Special Olympics form. Athletes attending these games will be notified by their respective sports coach by April 30. Do not assume you are attending State Summer Games unless you are notified by one of these coaches:

- Athletics — Ann Gach
- Aquatics — John Muisenga
- Bocce — Gregg Young

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK!!

Have you "LIKED" us on Facebook? We post several times/week. Check out all the latest happenings on our Facebook page:

www.Facebook.com/Midland.Area30

Erica Roy is our administrator. Feel free to contact her if you would like something added to the page.

- Erica Roy—ericadavis9009@gmail.com

UNIFIED GOLF PRACTICES

by: John Muisenga, Golf Coach

It is that time of year to get into the swing of Spring! Join Special Olympics on Saturday afternoons @ Currie Golf Course driving Range @ 1 pm. Our **first practice is Saturday, June 17.**



Golf rounds will be held on Saturday afternoons in June/July/August/September. The schedule will be determined by June 1.

If you are interested in golfing or being an Unified Partner, contact John @ 989-859-1595 or jamuisenga@charter.net.

SOFTBALL PRACTICES

Softball practices will be held on **Tuesday/Thursday** evenings and continuing through August. Practices will be held from **6-8 pm @ Midland High School** softball fields.



We will have one team coached by Dan Brown, Ray Bowerson, Duane Moe and assisted by Dan Nye and Tony Peariso. They will attend games and tournaments during the season and will attend the State Falls Games (date to be determined).

SOFTBALL SKILLS PRACTICES

Softball Skills practices will be held on **Tuesday** evening, **starting June 6** and continuing thru August 15. Practices will be held @ the **Miracle Field from 6-7 pm.** Sue Crane is the coach. Contact Sue @ 989-860-8677 or scrane@svsu.edu if you'd like to participate or volunteer.

SOCCER PRACTICES

Soccer practices will start on **Monday, June 19** and will be held every Monday evening thru August 21 from **6:00-7:30 pm.** Practices will be held @ the **Midland Soccer Complex.** We hope to have two teams—coached by Lisa Schwager and Erica Roy. Contact Lisa @ area30@som.org or 989-832-9443 if you are interested in participating or volunteering.



FLAG FOOTBALL PRACTICES

Flag Football practices will be held on **Tuesday/Thursday evenings** from **6-8 pm @ Midland High** practice field next to the softball diamond. The first practice will be Tuesday, September 5. The coaches are Gregg Young, Jeff Pitt, and Lisa Schwager. Contact Gregg Young @ 989-492-2029 if you'd like to participate or volunteer.

CYCLING PRACTICE

Cycling is a Fall Sport. Practice dates, location, and time have not yet been determined. Elaine Yokomizo is the person in charge. Contact Elaine @ emyoko7@gmail.com if you are interested in participating or volunteering.



REGIONAL AQUATICS MEET

by: John Muisenga, Aquatics Coach

After four long years, our annual Regional Aquatics Meet returned to Dow High School pool on Saturday, March 11. We had 5 areas attend from Bay City, Mt. Pleasant, Roscommon, Caro, and Midland. There were 48 athletes competing in three events, plus a relay event. We had a nice PIZZA lunch served afterwards with fruits/snacks. The athletes had a great time reuniting and swimming for their personal best times!

It takes an awesome group of volunteers to help pull off a successful regional swim meet. THANK YOU! Many thanks to the following people/groups for making this swim meet a huge success for Area 30! A special shout-out to the Midland Fire Department and Dow High School for all their support.

Registration

Mary Adams (helped with marshalling too!)

Timers/Recorders

Ray/Sue Drumright, Lynne DiMercurio, Tim Crane, Deb Van Tol, Erica Roy

Runners/Marshalls

Deb Schultz, Pesi Kennett, Frank How, Sara Gach

Pool Deck/Water Support

Mary Adams, Luke Drumright

Announcer

Ann Gach

Award Writers

Arlene Bernard, Ruth Muisenga

Award Presenters

Bella Sullivan, Ale Brenes, Peyton Rellinger, Kim White

Lunch Preparation/Servers

Sue Crane & Family, Maureen Drake

Lifeguard

Lane Wedge (Midland Community Center)

Midland Fire Department Paramedics

Lt. Jim Daveluy, John Polzin, Garrett Pochert

Concessions

Robin Rauner of Midland Civitan Club

Photographer

Lisa Schwager

Starter

John Muisenga

Helper Set-Up/Tear Down

Phil Adams

A special thanks to Mary Adams for finalizing the swim database and preparing the swim cards for the swim events.

You can view pictures from the meet on Facebook @ www.facebook.com/Midland.Area30. Thanks to Lisa Schwager taking these wonderful pictures!



YOUNG ATHLETES PROGRAM

by: Lori Wright, Coordinator

Do you know a cognitive impaired child aged 2-7 years old that loves to play—running, jumping, throwing, pretend play—this is a free program for them!

The Young Athletes Program is for individuals aged 2-7. This program needs a lot of volunteers. Please consider becoming a coach or volunteer. Contact Lori @ klwright@chartermi.net with any questions.

Also, pass the word if you know of children that might be interested in this program. These young athletes are the future of our program. Come out and watch these young athletes. You will be enthralled!



FAMILY HALL OF FAME

Our annual Family Hall of Fame will be held on **Wednesday, August 16** from **6-8 pm** @ **Plymouth Park, Shelter F** (by Fun Zone).

This year, we will induct one family into the Family Hall of Fame. This is a special recognition program in which we honor families and volunteers that support and assist our Special Olympics program.

To nominate a candidate, send a letter of recognition that includes the name of the person or family, years of service, and a brief explanation of why you feel the candidate deserves this honor. Nominations are due to Lisa Schwager by May 30.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS MICHIGAN (SOMI) NEW IMPROVED WEBSITE

Check out the SOMI website. It is very easy and user friendly.

To view our area webpage, follow these steps:

1. Log into the website → www.somi.org
2. Click on: "Find Your Local Area" on top of the page
3. Select "Northern Region", then "Area 30"

This page is specific to our area and has many forms you can access. Our sports and contact information is listed. We also have a link to our area Facebook page. This webpage is updated continuously. Feel free to share this with your family, friends, co-workers, etc.

Any questions, contact Erica Roy @ 989-418-9859 or email: ericadavis9009@gmail.com



FUNDRAISING NEWS!

POLAR PLUNGE 2023

Our second annual Polar Plunge was held on Saturday, February 18 @ Dow Diamond. A record \$53,000(!) was raised between the Midland and Bay City Police Departments, with Midland winning the friendly competition for most monies raised!! A record \$80,000 was raised for the Mid-Michigan Region. A portion of the monies raised will be given directly to Area 30.

MIDLAND MOOSE LODGE FUNDRAISER

The Midland Moose recently held a fundraiser, with monies designated to our program. Thank you Leslie Fortin for your continued support of our program!!

SPONSOR-A-CHAMP FUNDRAISER

Our annual SAC fundraising campaign was done in April. Letters are sent to area businesses, churches, organizations and miscellaneous donors. This fundraiser supports our athletes attending the State Summer Games @ CMU May 31-June 2.

WALK-A-THON FUNDRAISER—MAY 20

Our second annual Walk-A-Thon will be held on Saturday, May 20 @ the Dow High track, preceding our Area Summer Games Meet. Registration begins @ 9 am. The flyer and donor form are in this newsletter. Sue Crane is coordinating this fundraiser. Contact Sue (s crane@svsu.edu) if you would like to volunteer and/or have questions.

WHEELHOUSE/GOLF OUTING— SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

Mark your calendar for the third annual Wheelhouse/Special Olympics Midland Golf Outing, which will be held @ Sandy Ridge Golf Course on Sunday, August 6. More details will be coming soon. We are grateful to have Chris Noel coordinate this golfing event. If you would like to support or volunteer for this event, contact John Muisenga @ j amuisenga@charter.net or 989-859-1595.

MICHIGAN LETR TORCH RUN

This annual fundraiser has been held for many years the third week of September. We are looking forward to resuming this fundraiser again this year. For the past 6 years, we were the top money generator and hope to do so again this year! No details have yet been confirmed, but we'll send out information when details are confirmed.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

We like to introduce you to the A30 Fundraising Committee. Thank you all for your support in the success of our fundraising efforts!

- John Muisenga, Coordinator
- Ann Gach, Treasurer
- Lisa Schwager, Area Director
- Sue Crane
- Lynne DiMercurio
- Tina Kocsis
- Karen Muehlfelt
- Kristi Stuck
- Tracey Tatum
- Elaine Yokomizo

Summer Is Almost Here!

by: Deb Lambertson, Health & Wellness Coordinator

We are working on a wellness program for our athletes to encourage movement and healthy eating. More information will be out later this summer about this wellness program.

Are you interested in helping or leading the Walking program? If so, please let me know. We would like to hold the wellness program on the same evening as the Walking program, and combine for a brief education portion at the beginning of each session.

Did you know that regular physical activity has many health benefits, including:

- Strengthening bones
- Decreasing blood pressure
- Reducing stress and anxiety
- Increasing self-esteem
- Helping with weight management.

Physical activity gives people a chance to have fun, be with friends and family, enjoy the outdoors and improve your fitness ability.

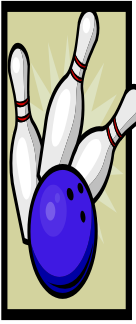
There are many ways to be active. You could get some movement by going for a daily walk, gardening, swimming, biking. Movement could be as simple as vacuuming or dusting.

Let's all try to keep active as the summer starts. Let's try to get into the best shape that you have ever been. This will help you perform better when you are ready to start your sports season!

Keep moving!

Contact Deb Lambertson @ dlamberton333@yahoo.com for more information.





"BOWLING BUDDIES" BOWLING LEAGUE

by: **Erica Roy/Tina Kocsis, Coach**

Our Bowling Buddies program is being revamped. Erica & Adam Roy will be the new coordinators, along with Tina Kocsis. Steve and Joann Roy will help out when available.

FYI. This is not Special Olympics sponsored, which means that Special Olympics does not pay for bowling.

Our Fall Season will start on **Saturday, September 9**. Bowling will be held from **1:30-3:30 pm @ Northern Lanes**. We will have the Fall Schedule by our first practice.

Bowlers need to provide their own transportation.

The cost of bowling is \$10 and includes two games of bowling, shoes, and the end-year banquet. If a bowler misses practices, they will be required to pay an additional \$4 at their next practice.

The cut-off for new/returning bowlers will be November 1. We will NOT take anyone after this date—unless bowlers are willing to pay \$4 up to the date that they start from when we first started.

We would love to have more bowlers join our program. Please spread the word about this awesome program!! Contact either Erica (ericadavis9009@gmail.com) or Tina Kocsis (tj_kocsis@yahoo.com) for more information.

AMANDA BROWN POETRY

Amanda is a Special Olympics athlete who is multi-talented. Besides participating in sports, she is also an accomplished photographer and poet. We are proud to publish Amanda's beautiful poetry and hope you enjoy future poetry from Amanda.

THE SPRING LEGEND

By: *Amanda Brown*

The fields of flowers
You will find a young
Girl in a pretty little
Dress asleep among the flowers

Don't awake her, she needs
Her sleep this young girl
Delicate as a rose but
Strong like a horse as

Days go on, the girl
Is awake skipping down the
Road singing songs as happy
As a young girl can be

Will we see this girl
Again, I hope we do
We will never know when
She will come again.





Birthdays

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY To Our
Special Athletes and Volunteers!**

February

Adit Biju
Gina Burton
Krisian Davis
Josh DiMercurio
Kyle Eaton
Jenny Finzel
Joshua Hanes
Maria Kalitta
James Morr
Heather Naessens
Izzy Perez
Jessica Rhine
Joann Roy
Ricky Warner
Jody Wiley

March

Sara Banaszak
Arlene Bernard
Jim Bernard
James Brisboy
Dan Brown
Jordan Harvey
Gabe Kalitta
Harold Kenega
Eric Kuch
Deb Lamberton
Teresa Mauch
Brayden Meyers
Jacob Schwager
Mark Sweeney

April

Amanda Brown
Eric Chesney
Greg Corrion
Tim Crane
Bruce Fahlgren
Kay Harley
Megan Micsak
Ruth Muisenga
Brian Nunn
Eric Roy
Jaydenlee Roy
Kelly Sasse
Jessalyn Smith
Jim Warner
Breanna Washington
Lori Wright
Mitch Young

May

Alonnah Cuellar
Julia Fink
Elizabeth Gisse
Ben Guffey
Misty Holloman
Morgan Keel
Pesi Kennett
Shelby Muehlfelt
Renee Morris
Jeff Pitt
John Rummer
Adam Roy
Erica Roy
Lisa Schwager
Isabella VanDaele
Justine Wenzel

THANK YOU!!

A special THANK YOU to the following people and organizations for their generous contributions:

- *Amway (Phil Adams volunteer donation)*
- *Bernadine LeBeau*
- *Polar Plunge (2022 donation)*
- *United Way*

A special THANK YOU to the following people for giving a donation for new uniforms:

- *Deb & Brian Lamberton*
- *Christina & Roger Szafranski*

THANK YOU to the following people who gave a memorial donation in honor of **Dennis Blevins**, father of Rick Blevins:

- *Becky Bastak*
- *Paulette Bird*
- *Pamie & Bruce Blevins*
- *Brenda & Gary Boots*
- *Ruth Bottrill*
- *Judy Brewer & Kellie Caldwell*
- *Tony & Angela Chritz*
- *Doris Dec*
- *Tim & Terri Draves*
- *Cassandra Foley*
- *Claude Florey*
- *Dennis & Diane Foster*
- *Robert Friend*
- *Matt & Susie Groendal*
- *Dick & Carol Hale*
- *Donald & Elisabeth Karinda*
- *Scott & Lana Maxwell*
- *Clifford & Karen Mayers*
- *Richard & Patricia McColl*
- *Jean/John/Jill Meyer*
- *Richard & Myra Ann Moore*
- *Amy Owen*
- *John & Tina Peacock*
- *Maureen Pillepich*
- *Bob Raymond*
- *Marc & Beth St. Pierre*
- *Paul & Gloria Schultz*
- *Roger & Vicki Sharpe*
- *Bridget Snow-Swantek*
- *Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Stine*
- *Frederick & Shirley Warner*

THANK YOU!!



AREA 30 SPECIAL OLYMPICS GUIDELINES FOR ATTENDANCE AT STATE TOURNAMENTS

Following are a list of guidelines for selecting athletes to attend state tournaments (i.e. basketball, soccer, track, softball, etc):

1. PRACTICE

To qualify for a state tournament, the athlete must attend a minimum of six (6) practices. All of our sport seasons consist of at least an 8-week training program. It is only fair to take an athlete to the state meet who participated in the training and competition versus an athlete who has not. Our philosophy is that an athlete who is not trained will not be ready for sports competition.

2. FREQUENCY

This means how many times an athlete attends a state tournament. Generally, athletes that have never been to a state meet or have not attended one within the past year will be selected. However, there are exceptions. For example, it is the swimming coach's discretion to choose the swimmers; many of our swimmers have been in the program for years, and they may be continuously selected to attend the state swimming tournament. If an athlete participates in all the Special Olympics sport events (i.e. soccer, basketball, softball, etc), *generally* they are not chosen to attend the summer games. **WE TRY TO BE AS FAIR AS POSSIBLE. WE WANT EVERYONE TO HAVE THEIR TURN; HOWEVER, THEY MUST FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES TO BE CONSIDERED.**

3. INDEPENDENT

The athlete must be fairly independent. The chaperones have responsibility for four (4) athletes and cannot be expected to devote their full attention to just 1 athlete. We do not and will not have time to "pamper" them; one must not stifle the ability an athlete has if allowed to show it. **THIS IS A LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR THE ATHLETE.** Let's not ruin it by suffocating the athlete.

4. BEHAVIOR

The athlete must display good behavior. They must be able to take **DIRECT ORDERS** from the chaperones. They must behave appropriately. We will tolerate misbehavior at times; however, we will not endure misbehavior constantly from anyone.

NOTE: Misbehavior consists of the following: bad attitude, unwilling to listen or cooperate, stealing, unexplained absences, excessive foul language, overly aggressive behavior, running away, etc.

5. ATTITUDE

If an athlete refuses a ribbon or medal at a state tournament, they will not be allowed to attend that specific tournament of a period of 1 year.

6. UPDATED FORMS

In order for an athlete to participate, their Special Olympics Health Appraisal Form must be updated. This form includes a medical portion, which needs to be signed and dated by a doctor, and the legal guardian section which needs to be signed and dated by the athlete's legal guardian. If an athlete is their own guardian, they may sign that portion.

WALK-A-THON



To Support Special Olympics Midland (Area 30)

- Who Can Participate?** Athletes, Family, Friends, Volunteers
- When:** Saturday, May 20, 2023, before the Area Summer Games
- What Time:** 9:00 am – 9:30 am - Registration
9:30 am – 10:30 am - Walk
10:30 am – Snack Bag for Walkers
If you can, stay to cheer on the Athletes Participating in the Area Summer Games.
- Where:** HH Dow High School Track
3901 N. Saginaw Road
Midland, MI 48640
- How to Register:** You must pre-register by Saturday, May 13, 2023. Contact Sue Crane at (989)860-8677 or scrane@svsu.edu. Please leave a message with the information requested below if I am not able to answer the phone.

Information Needed from Walkers:

Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Use the Walk-a-thon Sponsor Sheet to keep track of your donors and the amount they donate. All donations are required to be turned in at registration the day of the event.

All proceeds benefit Special Olympics Midland year-round sports training and competition programs.



Midland Special Olympics (Area 30) Walk-a-thon Donor Sheet

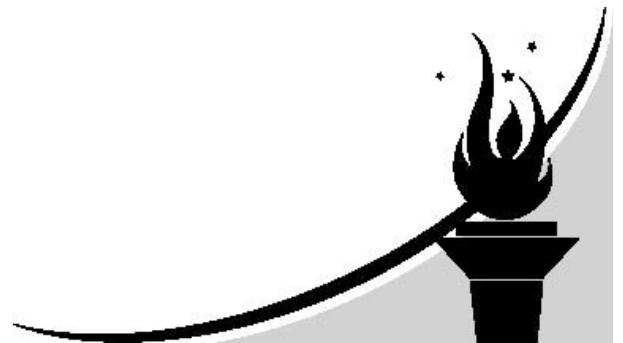
Walker Name: _____

Phone Number: _____



	Donor Name	Donor Address	Cash or Check	Check Number	Amount
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					
Total Collected					

THANK YOU for your donation! All proceeds benefit Special Olympics Midland year-round sports training and competition programs.



**COME SHARE THE SPIRIT OF
AREA 30 SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

Send information on enrolling athletes in Special Olympics

Send information on volunteering for Special Olympics

Send information on how I can involve my organization

Accept the enclosed tax-deductible contribution

Name: _____

Address: _____

Mail to: Area 30 Special Olympics, 4116 Arbor Drive, Midland, MI 48640
or Contact: Lisa Schwager, Area Director (989)832-9443 / area30@somi.org