



Area 9 – Bay and Arenac 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 9 Facts

309 participants

Area 9 offers the following sports programs:

Athletics (Track & Field)
Basketball
Bocce
Bowling
Cross-Country Skiing
Cycling
Flag Football
Kayaking
MATP
Powerlifting
Rhythmic Gymnastics
Snowshoe
Soccer
Softball
Speed Skating
Swimming
Volleyball

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 and without the support of state funds. Generosity of organizations, individuals, and businesses enable the program to continue.

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

Special Olympic programs are offered in all 83 counties in Michigan. Area 9 encompasses all of Bay and Arenac Counties.

VOLUNTEERS

Thousands of volunteers contribute their time, energy and expertise to make the Special Olympics program a reality in Michigan. Area 9 relies on the dedicated support of 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 9 MANAGEMENT TEAM

Janelle Miller, Area Director/Outreach/P.R./ Health & Wellness Coordinator
Dave Pruder, Asst. Area Director/Coach Training Rep.
Amy Rosebush, Asst. Area Director/Medical Rep.
Bob Johnston, Financial Rep.
Mary Pearsall, Fundraiser Rep.
Julie Kelcherman, Volunteer/Parent Rep.
Brad Covaleski, Knights of Columbus Liaison
Tonya Asbury, Parent/Family Group
Amy Paten, Parent/Family Group
Kris Hawley, Parent/Family Group
Penny Hildinger, Unified Champion Rep.
Dylan Steele, Unified Champion Rep.
Melissa Courier, YAP Coordinator
Leslie Seibert, YAP Coordinator
Betty Dabrowski, ARC Liaison/Volunteer Rep.
T.J. Boos, Board Member
Kate Schisler, Board Member
Deb Cherry, Board Member

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