

Fact Sheet

Special Olympics
Michigan - Area 11
Kent and Barry Counties



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 friendships with their families, other Special Olympic 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 Olympic 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 the athletes can be.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Special Olympics training and competition is open to every person with intellectual disabilities who is at least eight years of age and who registers to participate in Special Olympics as required by the Special Olympics General Rules.

VOLUNTEERS

Area 11 relies on the dedicated support of volunteers who offer their time and talents in a number of ways, including chaperoning athletes at events, coaching, assisting with fundraising and helping run local events.

FUNDING

Special Olympics Michigan is a non-profit organization supported almost entirely by corporate funding and individual gifts. The generosity of Michigan organizations, individuals, and statewide businesses enable the program to continue. Area 11 has an annual budget that funds year-around programs for the athletes in Kent and Barry Counties. Donations to Special Olympics Michigan-Area 11 can be made by mail to the Special Olympics Michigan Area 11 address below. Programs are provided at no cost to athletes or their families.

AREA 11 OFFERS THE FOLLOWING SPORTS PROGRAMS (DEPENDENT ON CERTIFIED COACH AVAILABILITY):

Alpine Skiing	Kayaking
Athletics	Motor Activity Training
Basketball	Poly Hockey
Bocce	Powerlifting
Bowling	Snowboarding
Cross Country Ski	Snowshoeing
Cycling	Soccer
Figure Skating	Softball
Flag Football	Speed Skating
Golf	Swimming
Gymnastics	Volleyball
Handball	Weightlifting
Horseshoes	Unified Sports

AREA 11 CONTACTS:

- o Don Meloche – Area Director
- o Bob Rice – Assistant Area Director and Competition & Training Coordinator
- o Jill Benoit – Assistant Area Director and Athletes & Volunteers Coordinator
- o Kelly Rice – Assistant Area Director and Fundraising Coordinator

If interested in becoming involved or if seeking further information, please email us at area11@somi.org or call us at 616-446-8851.



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