



Area 12 – Allegan, Ottawa and Muskegon Counties

Special Olympics Michigan

27,745 athletes Statewide

State-level competitions, 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 12

550+ athletes

Area 12 offers the following sports programs:

Alpine Skiing
Snowboarding
Snowshoeing
Speed Skating
Figure Skating
Cross-Country Skiing
Basketball
Bowling
Swimming
Track and Field
Bocce
Gymnastics
Horseshoes
Soccer
Softball
Volleyball
Cycling
Flag Football
Golf
Poly Hockey

Unified Sports

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 registers to participate in Special Olympics as required by the Special Olympics General Rules.

GEOGRAPHIC AREA

Special Olympic programs are offered in all 83 counties in Michigan. Area 12 encompasses all of Allegan, Ottawa & Muskegon Counties.

Area 12 currently has an average of 550+ athletes involved in the program.

VOLUNTEERS

Area 12 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.

FUNDING

Special Olympics Michigan is a non-profit organization supported almost entirely by private funding. Generosity of Michigan organizations, individuals, and statewide businesses enable the program to continue. Area 12 has an annual budget that funds year-round programs for the athletes in Allegan, Ottawa and Muskegon Counties. Donations to Special Olympics Michigan-Area 12 can be made by mail to the Special Olympics MI Area 12 address below.

AREA 12 MANAGEMENT TEAM

- Mark Dalman – Area Director
- Sandy Marlink – Asst. Area Dir. / Local Coordinator/Ottawa County East
- Jeff Grabber – Local Coordinator/Allegan County
- Sharon DeWit – Local Coordinator/ Ottawa County (Lakeshore)
- Tim Hichue - Local Coordinator/ Muskegon County
- Curtis Castle – Unified Sports Rep.
- Jeremiah Carr - Athlete Rep / Ottawa County
- Jason Muhamet - Athlete Rep / Muskegon County
- Dan Goodwin - Athlete Rep/Allegan County
- Dan Burkhead - Athlete Rep/Allegan County
- Jerry Zeerip - Equipment Rep
- Linda Boerman - Outreach Rep
- Brian Marlink - Competition Rep
- Mike and Mishel Fryman - Parent Rep
- Dee Kramer - Parent Rep
- Todd Dunham - LETR Rep
- Kathy Holkeboer - Grants & Foundations Rep
- Sally Snyder - Muskegon At Large Rep
- Shawn Phillips - Muskegon At Large Rep

Special Olympics MI
Area 12


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