Area 12 – Allegan, Ottawa and Muskegon Counties

Special Olympics Michigan
22,777 athletes
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 12 offers the following sports programs:
Alpine Skiing
Snowboarding
Swimming
Track and Field
Basketball
Bocce
Bowling
Cross-Country Skiing
Cycling
Figure Skating
Flag Football
Golf
Gymnastics
Horseshoes
Poly Hockey
Snowshoeing
Soccer
Softball
Speed Skating
Volleyball
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 500+ 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
  • Sandy Marlink – Area Director
  • Madeline Brook - Treasurer
  • Jeff Grabber – Local Coordinator/Allegan
  • Sharon DeWit – Local Coordinator/Lakeshore
  • Tim Hichue - Local Coordinator/ Muskegon
  • Lyndsey Huisman - Local Coordinator/Grand Haven-Alleland-Jenison
  • Cassidy Watts – Public Relations Representative
  • Michelle Cassens – Medical Representative
  • Patrick Avery – Fundraising Representative
  • Jerry Zeerip – Equipment Representative
  • Linda Boerman -- Outreach Representative
  • Brian Marlink -- Competition Representative
  • Mike and Mishel Fryman -- Parent Representatives
  • Dee Kramer -- Parent Representative
  • Todd Dunham -- LETR Representative
  • Kathy Holkeboer -- Grants & Foundations Representative
  • Sally Snyder -- Muskegon At Large Representative
  • Shawn Phillips -- Muskegon At Large Representative
  • Athlete Representatives
    • Curtis Castle (Unified Sports)
    • Jeremiah Carr (Ottawa)
    • Jason Muhamet (Muskegon)
    • Dan Goodwin (Allegan)
    • Dan Burkhead (Allegan)

Follow us on social media for up to date information:
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