



## 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-Allendale-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)



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Follow us on social media for up to date information:



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Special Olympics MI Area 12



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