



Area 23 – Wayne County

Special Olympics Michigan Facts

22,777 athletes
24 sports offered
7 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 23 Facts

2,000 athletes

Area 23 offers the following sports programs:

Alpine Skiing
Athletics
Basketball
Bocce
Bowling
Cross-Country
Cycling
Golf
Gymnastics
Poly Hockey
Powerlifting
Snowshoeing
Soccer
Softball
Speed Skating
Swimming

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 good friends athletes can be.

FUNDING

Special Olympics Michigan is a non-profit organization supported almost entirely by private funding. Generosity of organizations, individuals, and businesses enable the program to continue. Area 23 has an annual budget of \$230,149 that funds year-round programs for the athletes.

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

Special Olympic programs are offered in all 83 counties in Michigan. Area 23 encompasses all of Wayne County, excluding Detroit, Highland Park, and Hamtramck. Area 23 currently has an average of 2,000 athletes involved in the program.

VOLUNTEERS

Thousands of volunteers contribute their time, energy and expertise to make the Special Olympics program a reality in Michigan. Area 23 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.

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 23 MANAGEMENT TEAM

Sue Campbell – Area Director, Financial Rep.
Christopher Beck – Local Coordinator Rep.
Jim Borovac – Equipment Coordinator
Theresa Gutierrez – Public Relations Rep.
Amy Hammye – Games Coordinator
Kristie Lica – Competition Director
Chuck Zurawski – Medical Rep.
Kathy Siarto – Parent/Family Rep.

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