



Area 8 – Ingham and Eaton Counties

Special Olympics Michigan Facts

27,745 athletes

24 sports offered

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 8 Facts

3,789 athletes

Area 8 offers the following sports programs:

Alpine Skiing
Aquatics
Athletics
Basketball
Bocce
Bowling
Cross-Country Ski
Figure Skating
Flag Football
Gymnastics
Golf
Horseshoes
Motor Activities
Training Program (MATP)
Poly Hockey
Snowboarding
Snowshoeing
Softball
Speed Skating
Unified Champion Schools
Volleyball
Young Athletes Program

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, which was a \$7.7 million effort in 2016. Area 8 has an annual budget of \$229,101.83 that funds year-round programs for the athletes.

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

Special Olympic programs are offered in all 83 counties in Michigan. Area 8 encompasses all of Ingham and Eaton Counties. Area 8 currently has an average of 3,789 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 8 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 8 MANAGEMENT TEAM

Anne Goudie – Area Director
Meredith Moran – Assistant Area Director, Coordinator,
Volunteer Rep., YAP Coordinator
Elizabeth Viele – Athlete Rep.
Don Perry – Coordinator
Stacey Cassell – Coordinator
Paul Frank – Coordinator
Jordan Johnson – Coordinator
Cindy Hyaduck – Coordinator, Public Relations Rep.
Val Suszko – Coordinator, Fundraising Rep.
Bob Yarger – Financial Rep.
Victoria Halfmann – Coach/Training Rep.
Ken Boyd – Member at Large

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