

SPECIAL OLYMPICS MINNESOTA FACT SHEET



Special Olympics
Minnesota

Special Olympics Minnesota believes that through sports training and competition, people with intellectual disabilities benefit physically, mentally, and socially; families are strengthened; and community at large, both through participation and observation, is united in understanding people with intellectual disabilities in an environment of equality, respect and acceptance.

MISSION

The mission of Special Olympics Minnesota is to enhance the human potential and quality of life for children and adults with intellectual disabilities by offering year-round sports training and competition.

By sharing their joy and courage, Special Olympics athletes inspire the human spirit in all of us.

WHY NOW?

More than ever before, Special Olympics Minnesota plays a vital role in all communities because it uniquely...

- Celebrates life and achievement
- Promotes understanding and acceptance of human differences
- Advocates friendships
- Provides a fun, positive outlet for people to direct their energies
- Elevates quality of life
- Gives people a way to make a difference and achieve personal growth

VOLUNTEERS

More than 19,000 volunteers provide the people-power it takes to make Special Olympics happen across Minnesota year-round. These volunteers, from all walks of life, dedicate their time and knowledge coaching and training athletes, assisting in fundraising activities and helping to organize competitions and events. Why? Because Special Olympics Minnesota has proven that it makes a difference in their lives and the lives of others.

FUNDING

Funding for Special Olympics Minnesota consists of gifts from individuals, businesses, and civic groups throughout the state. Special Olympics Minnesota does not receive government support and is not a United Way agency.

STATE LEVEL COMPETITIONS

Special Olympics Minnesota hosts five state competitions throughout the year. Each competition offers opportunities to get involved as a sponsor, volunteer or spectator.

February

WINTER GAMES
Alpine Skiing
Figure Skating
Poly Hockey
Snowboarding
Table Tennis

June

SUMMER GAMES
Athletics
Gymnastics
Tennis
Volleyball

August

FALL GAMES
Bocce
Equestrian
Golf
Softball

April

SPRING GAMES
Aquatics
Basketball
Powerlifting

November

STATE BOWLING TOURNAMENT

WEB SITE

Learn more about Special Olympics Minnesota at www.somn.org or www.specialolympicsminnesota.org

SPECIAL OLYMPICS MINNESOTA STATISTICS

Athletes: 6,800 plus
Coaches: 4,556
Volunteers: 19,698
Active Delegations: 197
Area Events: 119
Olympic Type Sports: 17

AREAS

Minnesota is divided into 12 areas. The total number of athlete teams participating is 197.

AGE OF ATHLETES:

Athletes are eligible for training at age six; for competition on the day of their eighth birthday. There is no upper age limit for participation.

YOUNG ATHLETES:

Young Athletes is an innovative sports play program for children with intellectual disabilities, designed to introduce them to the world of sports prior to Special Olympics eligibility at age eight.

Young Athletes welcomes future athletes and family in a developmentally appropriate and inclusive play program for children with and without intellectual disabilities ages two through seven.

VALUES:

RESPECT: Valuing and accepting human differences and the unique abilities of all people in our communities.

ACCOMPLISHMENT: Celebrating the fulfillment of individual potential

CHOICE: Providing opportunities for self-determination.

QUALITY: Striving for excellence in all we do.

PARTNERSHIP: Achieving more than we can alone by collaborating with others.

INTEGRITY: Fostering a culture based on the highest standards of personal and professional principles.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS CHANGES LIVES

"Special Olympics has changed my life greatly and I now know that it does not matter what place I get, just as long as I do my best and have fun especially since the only sport I compete in is Golf. Thanks to my participation in the Athlete Leadership Programs, I have become a better Self-Advocate and love helping to train my fellow athletes through the workshops, a Board Member for Advocating Change Together, and a Coach for 3 sports (Aquatics, Athletics and Bowling). I did enjoy my 3-year involvement with the Promoting Abilities with Sled Dogs program, especially being around the dogs and the great person who I had as my mentor. Helping out at the Northland 300 Road Rallies has been fun since a lot of the veterans still remember me year after year, which is quite cool and I still do very well with my speeches which they truly like to hear before they are off and running."

Roberta Blomster, Special Olympics Athlete



Photography by
Lisa Hagens

STATE OFFICE

Special Olympics Minnesota
100 Washington Avenue South, Suite 550
Minneapolis, MN 55401
612-604-1272 • Toll Free 800-783-7732 Ext. 272 • Fax 612-333-8782