

## WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN?



"The family time we've spent at Special Olympics events is wonderful, the medals our son wins are an extra bonus, and [the health programs] are the icing on the cake!"  
 ~The Gainey Family,  
 Menomonie

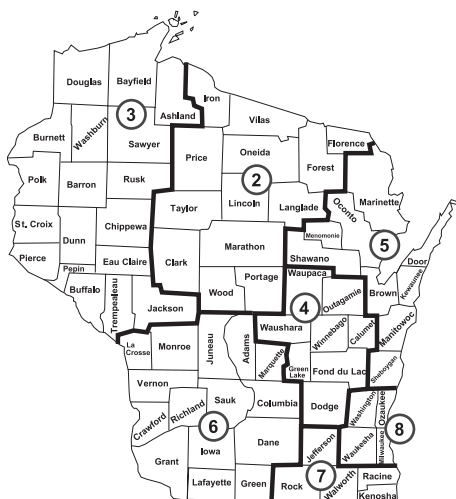
"It's nice to be in something where you are not teased all the time. I would not have the opportunity to compete in the sports I enjoy if there were no Special Olympics."  
 ~Adam Domino,  
 SOWI Athlete, Wausau



"Special Olympics makes the lives of people with special needs a better place. It has provided me with more structure and a chance to excel in sports."  
 ~Peter Chumas,  
 SOWI Athlete, Eau Claire

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS MISSION

To provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with cognitive disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.



**PROGRAM OFFICE**  
 2310 Crossroads Dr. Ste. 1000  
 Madison, WI 53718  
 608.222.1324  
 800.552.1324 (toll-free)  
 608.222.3578 (fax)

**NORTHEASTERN AREA 5**  
 2140 Holmgren Way  
 Green Bay, WI 54304  
 920.497.2422  
 800.707.2422 (toll-free)  
 920.497.0126 (fax)

**NORTH CENTRAL AREA 2**  
 2804 Rib Mountain Dr., Ste. C  
 Wausau, WI 54401  
 715.848.0550  
 877.848.0550 (toll-free)  
 715.848.0880 (fax)

**SOUTH CENTRAL AREA 6**  
 5900 Monona Drive, Ste. 403  
 Madison, WI 53716  
 608.221.2900  
 800.679.6751 (toll-free)  
 608.221.3961 (fax)

**INDIANHEAD AREA 3**  
 2023 Fairfax St.  
 Eau Claire, WI 54701  
 715.833.0833  
 800.833.5851 (toll-free)  
 715.833.0507 (fax)

**SOUTHEASTERN AREA 7**  
 6150 Taylor Ave.  
 Racine, WI 53403  
 262.598.9507  
 800.924.4320 (toll-free)  
 262.598.9509 (fax)

**FOX VALLEY AREA 4**  
 W5361 County Rd. KK, Suite D  
 Appleton, WI 54915  
 920.731.1614  
 800.704.1614 (toll-free)  
 920.731.3691 (fax)

**MILWAUKEE AREA 8**  
 10224 N. Port Washington Rd.  
 Mequon, WI 53092  
 262.241.7786  
 800.924.5202 (toll-free)  
 262.241.5334 (fax)

# Be a fan™



## ...of Family



**Special Olympics**  
 Wisconsin  
 Be a fan™

# WHAT IS SPECIAL OLYMPICS?

*A ray of hope...a bright future.*

When parents learn their newborn or expected child has a cognitive disability, they often feel faced with a crisis of the conscience.

In an instant, their excited anticipation to welcome their child into the world is transformed into nervous anxiety. Questions like "what brand of diapers should I buy" suddenly become trivial as they start asking "what does the future hold for my child?" and "How will we cope?"

For many parents, Special Olympics Wisconsin (SOWI) delivers a ray of hope. Through year-round sports training and competition, Special Olympics builds self-esteem, fosters courage, and teaches valuable lessons about winning, losing, and trying again.

A Yale University study found that Special Olympics athletes benefit from the following:

- Improved physical fitness and sports skills.
- Enhanced self-confidence and social competency.
- Improved skills for employment.
- Increased ability to make personal decisions and live independently.
- Improved friendships and family relations.

Through SOWI, nearly 10,000 athletes and their families are discovering the bright future that awaits them.

Families who network with others share similar experiences and discover medical information and community resources to help make their lives

easier. In Special Olympics, families will discover a place of acceptance, respect and belonging.

# WHEN ARE COMPETITIONS?

SOWI offers year-round training and competition in a wide variety of sports. Ask your Agency Manager what sports are available in your area. SOWI, per SOI recommendations, allows athletes to compete in one sport per season listed below:

**WINTER GAMES**  
(December-January)  
Alpine Skiing  
Cross Country Skiing  
Snowboarding  
Snowshoe Racing  
Speedskating

**INDOOR SPORTS TOURNAMENT**  
(February-March)  
Basketball  
Gymnastics

**SUMMER GAMES**  
(March-June)  
Aquatics (swimming)  
Athletics (track & field)  
Soccer  
Powerlifting

**FALL SPORTS TOURNAMENT**  
(September-December)  
Bowling  
Volleyball

**OUTDOOR SPORTS TOURNAMENT**  
(June-August)  
Bocce  
Cycling  
Golf  
Softball and Tee Ball  
Tennis

# WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Individuals must meet the following requirements\* to train or compete with SOWI:

- 1) Be at least eight years of age.
  - 2) Be identified by an agency or professional as having a cognitive disability, delay, or closely related developmental disability.
  - 3) Agree to abide by the Special Olympics Sports Rules and SOWI Athlete Code of Conduct.
- Persons with multiple disabilities may participate if they meet the noted criteria above.

\*See details of requirements on the SOWI website.

# SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Special Olympics not only offers sports opportunities, it also has many support programs to give athletes and families the tools they need to improve their health, increase their confidence and advocate for the rights of individuals with cognitive disabilities.

- **Young Athletes** introduces families and children, ages 2-7, both with and without cognitive disabilities, to the world of sport.
- **Athlete Leadership Programs** train athletes to serve in meaningful leadership roles.
- **Get Into It** provides K-12 service learning curriculum to schools to educate youth about the movement.
- **Healthy Athletes** improves participants nutrition and fitness.
- **The R-Word Campaign** builds awareness about the hurtful effects of the word "retard".



# HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

There is no cost to any athlete to join SOWI. There may be a minimal cost for participation. Special Olympics does not deny any athlete based on economic circumstances.

# GET ACTIVE!

Friends and family of Special Olympics athletes are encouraged to play one of these active roles in their community:

- Cheerleader
- Driver
- Home Trainer
- Spokesperson
- Coach
- Fundraiser\*

\*Visit the website for a list of local & state fundraisers.