

For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Nicole Jones, (610) 630-9450, ext. 231, njones@specialolympicspa.org

Day-of Contact: Teresa Amaturio, (484)335-3112 (cell), tamaturio@specialolympicspa.org

JUNIATA COLLEGE TO HOST ANNUAL SPECIAL OLYMPICS PENNSYLVANIA CENTRAL FALL SECTIONAL

Volunteer with Us! Open Positions Available

(Norristown, PA September 20, 2019) – Approximately 300 Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) athletes and 100 coaches will travel to the Juniata College Campus, located at 1700 Moore Street in Huntingdon, PA, for the annual Central Fall Sectional on Sunday, October 6, 2019.

Athletes from the central part of Pennsylvania will compete in team and individual events in four sports including bocce (doubles & Unified Sports® doubles), long distance walking/running, powerlifting, and volleyball (team and individual skills). Over 200 area volunteers recruited from the college, regional clubs, organizations, schools and surrounding community will give of their time to support the day's activities and cheer on the athletes.

The Central Fall Sectional will kick-off with Opening Ceremonies held in Juniata College's Knox Stadium (*Rain Plan: Kennedy Center*) at 9:00 a.m. Competitions will begin at 10:00 a.m. and run until 4:00 p.m. Bocce and volleyball individual and team competitions will be held the Kennedy Center. Long distance running/walking competitions will take place at Knox Stadium and Powerlifting will be held at Huntingdon Area High School.

Athletes will have the opportunity to enjoy Olympic Village from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm outside of the Kennedy Center entrance. Olympic Village offers athletes a variety of fun activities to keep them busy in between competitions. Numerous Juniata student clubs will set up booths and crafts tables, and area businesses will participate.

Athletes will also have the ability to gain understanding of how healthy habits affect sport performance and everyday life by visiting Healthy Habits interactive education stations. The Healthy Habits program, which is open to all athletes, will take place in the lobby by the main entrance of Kennedy Center and travel to each sports venue from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm.

The event management team is still in search of volunteers for the event. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Teresa Amaturio at tamaturio@specialolympicspa.org. Spectators are welcome to visit any of the competition venues and cheer-on the athletes. There is no charge to attend SOPA competitions for athletes, volunteers or spectators. For a full schedule of the day's events, please contact Nicole Jones at njones@specialolympicspa.org.

About Special Olympics Pennsylvania

Special Olympics Pennsylvania provides year-round training and competition in 21 Olympic-type sports to more than 20,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities or closely related developmental disabilities. For more information about how you can "Join the Inclusion Revolution," visit www.specialolympicspa.org.

###