



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **SPECIAL OLYMPICS PA TO HOLD WESTERN BOWLING SECTIONAL AT EASTWAY, GREENGARDEN, AND WESTWAY LANES IN ERIE AND GIRARD, PA, JANUARY 18TH** *SEVERAL VOLUNTEER POSITIONS STILL NEED TO BE FILLED*

**(Norristown, PA) January 8, 2020** - Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) will host the 2020 Western Bowling Sectional on Saturday, January 18th. Approximately 320 athletes, 100 coaches and more than 200 volunteers will participate in the sectional that includes competition in singles, doubles, traditional team, and Unified Sports® team and doubles. Eastway and Greengarden Lanes in Erie, PA as well as Westway Lanes in Girard, PA will serve as the venues for competition.

Opening ceremonies will be held at each respective bowling house at 12:30 p.m. and include entertainment and guest appearances. Competition will take place from 1 - 3 p.m., awards will be presented from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and the event will conclude at approximately 4:15 p.m. [Click here](#) to find a tentative schedule of events.

The Sectional will serve as a qualifier for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Indoor Winter Games to be held in York, PA from March 7 – 8, 2020. Each bowling sectional (Western, Central and Eastern) will host athletes that will compete in singles, Unified Doubles, Traditional Doubles, Traditional 4-person teams and Unified 4-person teams. In addition, each sectional will draw alternates for singles, Unified Doubles, Traditional Doubles, Unified Teams, and Traditional Teams. The 2020 Indoor Winter Games Bowling drawing will be held on Tuesday, January 21st.

These events require volunteers to serve as officials, athlete escorts, award presenters, and in various other ways. Those interested can register online at [www.specialolympicspa.org](http://www.specialolympicspa.org). Spectators are also welcome to visit any of the competition venues and cheer on the athletes; no spectators may enter the bowling circle. For information about the sectional, please contact Mike Ermer, Western Competition Director at 724-375-7515, ext. 243.

#### ***About Special Olympics Pennsylvania***

Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) 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 50 years, SOPA and its 54 local programs have used the power of sports to transform the lives of people with intellectual disabilities and unite everyone by fostering community and building a more acceptable and civil society. SOPA is much more than a sports organization. Through its Athlete Leadership Programs, athletes assume meaningful leadership roles, influence change within the Special Olympics movement and take on roles as Global Messengers (trained as public speakers for Special Olympics), athlete representatives, coaches, board members and more. SOPA also addresses major challenges facing its athletes including

healthcare. Its Healthy Athletes program offers athletes free health screenings in the form of eye, ear, dental and podiatry assessments. Athletes are also taught how to live active lifestyles, eat healthy and more. Additionally, SOPA strives to create a unified world by promoting inclusion, uniting communities, and changing attitude. Through Unified Sports, SOPA brings together individuals with and without intellectual disabilities as equal teammates in training and competition, which promotes respect and acceptance, and facilitates meaningful relationships between people of all abilities. For more information about how you can join “The Inclusion Revolution,” visit [www.specialolympicspa.org](http://www.specialolympicspa.org).

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**Special Olympics Pennsylvania**

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