



Special
Olympics
Pennsylvania



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SECOND ANNUAL SPECIAL OLYMPICS PENNSYLVANIA INDOOR WINTER GAMES COMES TO YORK COUNTY

Athletes to compete in four events throughout the county

(YORK, PA, February 13, 2019) – Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) will bring its 2nd annual Indoor Winter Games to York County from March 7 - 8, 2020. More than 650 athletes are expected to showcase the hard work and commitment they have demonstrated during months of training and competing to qualify for these games. Cheered on by hundreds of coaches, loved ones, and members of the community, these games will truly demonstrate the strength of the human spirit.

The Indoor Winter Games committee is currently seeking volunteers to serve in specific roles including: general event volunteers to assist with athlete arrival, registration, bowling lane monitors, athlete escorts, meals prep, awards presenters, special events and more.

The Indoor Winter Games, presented by Explore York, will feature four events: floor hockey, which will take place at the York Expo Center, figure skating and speed skating, which will take place at the York Ice Arena, and bowling, which will be at Laser Alleys and Colony Park Lanes North.

Before to the start of the Indoor Winter Games, SOPA will also play host to a Young Athletes exhibition from 9 - 10:30 a.m. at the York Expo Center. This exhibition will feature sports activities as well as arts & crafts and fun! Afterward, participants and their families are welcome to stick around for Opening Ceremonies and competitions. This event is not exclusive to current Young Athletes participants. Children of all abilities ages 2-7 within the greater York area are invited. Young Athletes and their families can learn more and [register online](#).

Opening Ceremonies, beginning at 11 a.m. on Saturday, will be emceed by ABC27 reporter Michella Drapac and a Special Olympics athlete at the York Expo Center. Opening will feature live entertainment including performances by a Jazz Ensemble, and Dance Group Adrenaline. There will also be workout performance from POUND® and Generation POUND®, a workout for both adults and kids that combines music, simulated drumming, movement and choreography that focuses on musicality, self-expression and self-confidence. POUND empowers both kids and adults to explore new movement, embrace their creativity and ROCK OUT - ultimately building strength, confidence, self-awareness and self-love. POUND Pro Shannon Martz and her Rockstars, including some SOPA athletes, will be demonstrating two choreographed tracks for Opening Ceremonies. The arrival of the “Flame of Hope,” will follow the POUND® performance and the lighting of the Olympic Cauldron will officially open the Games.

In addition, the weekend will offer Healthy Athletes® screenings, Healthy Habits interactive activities, and an “Olympic Village” providing activities for athletes in-between sporting events.

Following the Opening Ceremonies, competitions will begin at noon on Saturday. The first day of the event will wrap up with a dance and game night for the athletes to enjoy. Competition will resume on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. with awards ceremonies starting at 1 p.m.

This is the second year that York County has hosted the Indoor Winter Games and there is the possibility of extending the relationship even further into the future. These games will bring almost \$500,000 in economic benefits to the county.

Indoor Winter Games major event sponsors include Explore York as the presenting sponsor. Other sponsors are IVRI, the Vizzi Family, ABC 27, which is the official TV station of the Indoor Winter Games, York Ice Arena, and WellSpan Health, which is also the official medical provider of the Indoor Winter Games.

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

Explore York's Sport York program is designed to recruit events and generate additional economic impact in York County. Sport York positions York County as Pennsylvania's Premier Sports Destination, highlighting the area's dynamic facilities and central location on the East Coast. For further information about Sport York, visit www.yorkpa.org/sports.

Explore York's Mission is to maximize tourism expenditures and their economic impact in York County, PA, through comprehensive tourism sales and marketing programs. Explore York's Vision is for a York County where tourism is recognized for the value of its economic impact and its role in raising the profile of York County as a sought-after destination. For more information on the Explore York, call 1-888-858-9675 or visit www.yorkpa.org.