



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JUNIATA COLLEGE TO HOST ANNUAL SPECIAL OLYMPICS PENNSYLVANIA CENTRAL FALL SECTIONAL

More than 160 Athletes Return to In-Person Competition

WHAT: **2021 Central Fall Sectional** – where more than 160 athletes will attend their first in-person competition since March 2020. Athletes will compete in team and individual events in four sports including bocce (doubles & Unified Sports® doubles), long distance walking/running (traditional & Unified Sports®), powerlifting, and volleyball (team).

WHEN: **Sunday, September 26th**

9 A.M.	Opening Ceremonies
10 A.M. – 5 P.M.	Competition & Awards
10 A.M. – 4 P.M.	Healthy Habits and Performance Stations
11 A.M. – 4 P.M.	Olympic Village

WHERE: **Juniata College**

1700 Moore Street in Huntingdon, PA

WHO: More than 160 Special Olympics athletes as well as students and faculty from Juniata College.

****PLEASE NOTE: All participants (athletes/volunteers) are required to be vaccinated and masks are required indoors and outdoors, except when actively engaged in sports training and competition. ****

(NORRISTOWN, PA, September 23, 2021) – More than 160 Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) athletes and 89 coaches will travel to the Juniata College Campus, located at 1700 Moore Street, Huntingdon, PA, for the annual Eastern Fall Sectional on Sunday, September 26, 2021.

Athletes from the Central part of Pennsylvania will compete in team and individual events in five sports including bocce (doubles & Unified Sports® doubles), long distance walking/running (traditional & Unified Sports®), powerlifting, and volleyball (team). Over 230 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. Powerlifting and volleyball competitions will be held the Kennedy Center. Long distance



running/walking competitions and bocce will take place at Knox Stadium.

Athletes will have the opportunity to enjoy Olympic Village from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm at Knox Stadium. 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.

Spectators, who are wearing masks, are welcome to visit any of the outdoor competition venues and cheer-on the athletes. There is no charge to attend SOPA competitions for athletes, volunteers or spectators. [Click here](#) to view a schedule of the day's events.

About Special Olympics Pennsylvania

Special Olympics Pennsylvania provides year-round training and competition in 21 Olympic-type sports to 16,000 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.

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Special Olympics Pennsylvania

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