

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



## **FACT SHEET**

**EVENT:** 37th Annual SOPA/SOYO Multi-Sports Training Camp  
**DATE:** August 12-18  
**SITE:** Antiochian Village, Bolivar, Pennsylvania

**EVENT DIRECTOR:**  
Robyn Cummings

**SOPA LIAISON:**  
Jennifer Tresp  
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### **PROGRAM FORMAT:**

- 2 hours of intensive sports training in primary sport of choice each morning.
- Less intensive training in up to 10 other sports/activities offered on a rotating basis in the afternoons.

**PROJECTED # OF ATHLETES:** 200      **PROJECTED # OF COACHES:** 100

Camp is staffed by approximately 50 Special Olympics Pennsylvania Coaches and 50 church youth group volunteers from North American Council of Teen SOYO (Society of Orthodox Youth Organizations).

### **SPORTS TRAINING OFFERED IN:**

Athletics  
Golf  
Soccer

Basketball  
Flag Football  
Swimming

Bowling  
Floor Hockey  
Tennis

Bocce  
Softball  
Volleyball

# **SPECIAL OLYMPICS PENNSYLVANIA MULTI-SPORTS TRAINING CAMP ANTIOCHIAN VILLAGE, BOLIVAR, PA**

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## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Antiochian Village contains about 400 acres of land, part of which is used for the camp as well as the Heritage Learning and Retreat Center. The rest of the acreage contains a lake, pond, forest, and some land that is presently being farmed. The camp is comprised of cabins, a dining hall, gathering place, pavilion, health center (infirmary), chapel, outdoor chapel, gift shop, and office. Sport-related facilities include a swimming pool, 2 outdoor basketball courts, 2 outdoor volleyball courts, 1 sand volleyball court, a tennis court, a baseball diamond, 2 bocce courts, and a soccer field. There is a lake for canoeing and fishing. Hiking trails are also available. The Heritage Retreat and Learning Center contains 100 hotel-type rooms, a dining hall, chapel, offices, meeting rooms, laundry room, gift shop, library, amphitheater/auditorium, museum, recreation room, guest suites and apartments for the Bishop and the Clergy living there. The Antiochian Village was purchased in 1978 from the Presbyterians who owned several camps in the area. Many people will remember Antiochian Village by its former name, Camp Fairfield.

Funding for the Special Olympics Multi-Sports Training Camp comes from the NAC (North American Council) Teen SOYO. SOYO stands for the Society of Orthodox Youth Organizations. Teen SOYO is comprised of young people aged 13-19 from the Orthodox Church. Each church has its own group. There are Diocesan Teen SOYO groups which are made up of teen groups from the parishes in that particular region. There are presently seven dioceses in the Archdiocese: Eastern, New England, Midwest, Can-Am, Southeast, Southwest, and Western. The NAC Teen SOYO is comprised of all the teen groups from all of the parishes throughout the United States and Canada. On the third Sunday of October each year, local teen groups have Special Olympics Awareness Day. On this Sunday, the teens raise funds for the sports camp by distributing icon cards to the parishioners and holding fund raising events. They can also, if they wish, have other events throughout the year to raise funds as well. Some regions also encourage their chapters to raise funds throughout the year perhaps by having one fund raiser a year designated for the sports camp. These funds are collected locally, and then forwarded to the NAC Teen SOYO.

The cost of the sports camp runs is in excess of \$50,000 a year. If this amount is not raised by the teens, the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch, the philanthropic arm of the Archdiocese, has covered the additional expenses. The Order is a group of men and women (presently about 1,300) from throughout the Archdiocese who pledge either \$500 or more each year to the Order. These funds are used for special projects of the Archdiocese, for instance, the repair and replacement of camp facilities as well as underwriting the sports camp.

## **CAMP INFORMATION**

### **CAMP DESCRIPTION**

- Scenic, mountain setting with modern cabins and facilities
- Outdoor basketball, volleyball, and tennis courts, soccer and softball fields, swimming pool
- Average daily temperature: 80-90 degrees
- Registered nurse on site, with a visiting doctor available, and EMT's within minutes.
- Sponsored by the North American Council of Teen SOYO

## **SPORTS TRAINING**

- Training offered: athletics, basketball, bowling, flag football, soccer, softball, volleyball, & lifetime sports/Bocce and swimming
- Trained Clinicians and Certified Coaches at each training site.
- Morning and afternoon stretch/warm-up.
- Morning session – 2 hours of intensive training in primary sport
- Afternoon sessions – rotation through each of the other sports/activities with less intensive training.
- Athletes will be running in hot sun for a minimum of three hours each day.
- Athletes are divided into ability groups for afternoon sports rotations.
- SOYO and SOPA Coaches/Chaperones coach and participate with athletes in each sport.
- Additional recreational sports and camp activities offered.
- Rigorous drills conducted suitable to ability group.
- Mini competitions by ability group and Unified Sports® competition with coaches on Friday.

## **ATHLETE CRITERIA & REQUIREMENTS**

- Applicants of all ability levels welcomed! **(Due to the Special Olympics required 1:4 coach athlete ratio, this camp is not appropriate for those athletes requiring 1-to-1 attention for behavioral and/or physical needs.)**
- Athletes must be able to walk up and down hills without assistance. Please note that this is a walking camp and there are small hills on the campus.
- **Athletes must be 12 years of age by camp date (8/12/18).**
- Athletes must be coachable, and/or accept instruction from new individuals
- Athletes must be able to withstand and fully participate in four hours of sports training per day along with scheduled evening activities. If they are not able to withstand this level of participation, consideration should be given to whether this camp provides the best experience for this athlete. Pre-camp fitness training is highly recommended.
- **Camp is a non-smoking venue.** Coaches and athletes must be able to refrain from smoking, chewing tobacco, etc. for one full week.
- Athletes must complete and sign all parts of Registration Application (recommendations are required for new athletes and **only** if athlete **did not** attend camp in the previous 3 years), and a **current** and **complete** Special Olympics Pennsylvania Athlete Application (aka medical).
- Athletes must have trained/participated in at least one sport during the past year.
- Athletes must follow the rules of Antiochian Village, Camp Committee and coaches.
- Athletes must exhibit sportsmanlike conduct/good attitude at all times and may not exhibit any significant behavior problems!
- Athletes must turn in car keys at registration when they arrive on Sunday, if providing own transportation.
- Athletes must be able to deal with last-minute changes to the schedule due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances.
- Athletes must be able to handle rural environment with outdoor wildlife, insects, and plants which could be encountered.
- No food is permitted in the cabin.

## **COACH CRITERIA & REQUIREMENTS:**

- SOPA Coaches must be at least 18 years of age by application deadline.
- Coaches must accept athlete to coach, same-sex ratio policies enforced throughout the week.
- Coach Registration Form and Document of Coaches' Responsibility must be completed, signed front and back, and received by deadline.
- **Coaches must have completed their Verified Volunteer Background Check and have a record in the VSys Database.**
- **Coaches must participate in a Conference Call prior to Camp to review responsibilities for the week.**
- **Coaches must accept housing with athletes of the same-sex that includes 24 hour responsibility, for all 7 days of camp. (Coaches will likely be assigned to supervise athletes from other counties.)**
- Please note that this is a walking camp and there are small hills on the campus.
- **Camp is a non-smoking venue.** Coaches and athletes must be able to refrain from smoking, chewing tobacco, etc. for one full week.
- SOPA and SOYO chaperones will be referred to as coaches and therefore will be required to perform coaching duties.
- Coaches should know the athletes they accompany to camp.
- Coaches must accept authority of Camp Director and Committee.
- Coaches must participate and assist Head Clinicians at all assigned venues (including swimming)
- Coaches must work with all ability level athletes.
- Coaches must be well conditioned to endure up to four hours of intensive sports training each day. Pre-camp fitness training is highly recommended!
- Coaches must be able to endure an extremely long, hot, exhausting week with 100% participation, proper sports attire and good attitude! *(If you have a medical condition that prohibits you from participating in all coaching aspects...this **is not** the place for you!)*
- Coaches must be able to deal with last-minute changes to the schedule due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances.
- Coaches must be able to handle rural environment with outdoor wildlife, insects, and plants which could be encountered.

## **ATHLETE to COACH SAME-SEX RATIO**

- **Ratio of 1:4 (Coach to Athlete) policy must be maintained throughout the week.**
- Applications of athletes accompanied by same-sex coach application receive first priority.
- Athlete applications not accompanied by a coach application will **NOT** be accepted.
- Male and female coaches must apply with same-sex ratio of athlete applicants.

## Tentative Dailey Schedule:

<u>Sunday, August 12, 2018</u>	<u>Monday-Friday, August 13-17, 2018</u>
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Delegation Registration	8:00 a.m. Breakfast
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Unpack/Coach/Orientation	9:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Primary Sports Training
3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Athlete Sport Assessments	11:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Break
6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Dinner	12:00 p.m. - 12:45 p.m. Lunch
7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Get Acquainted Activities	1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Sport Training/Activities Rotations
10:00 p.m. Lights Out/In Cabins	4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Break in Cabins
	6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Dinner
<u>Saturday, August 18, 2018</u>	7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Evening Entertainment
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Breakfast	10:00 p.m. Lights Out/In Cabins
9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Cabin Clean-up	
9:30 a.m. Departure for HOME	

**CAMP COMMITTEE** - Committee consists of special education teachers, experienced coaches, parents of athletes, former SOYO's, and excellent camp volunteers! All Camp staff have completed the Verified Volunteer Record Clearances.

### APPLICANT SELECTION

- Camp can house a minimum of 200 athletes.
- Camp committee will review and select appreciate campers. Athletes/Coaches with **significant behavior problems or with prior camp issues may not be accepted!**
- Registration Application must be completed, signed by camper, guardian, and County Manager, and received by deadline. County Managers should review all applications to ensure they are complete before they are signed and submitted.
- Applicants not selected for current camp year may reapply the following year.
- Registration Applications will be emailed to each County Contact

### APPLICATION DEADLINE/NOTIFICATIONS

- All athlete and coach/chaperone Registration Applications must be submitted to [jtresp@specialolympicspa.org](mailto:jtresp@specialolympicspa.org) or the SOPA State College Office by deadline: **Friday, June 8, 2018**
- **County Managers should review the applications to ensure they are complete before signing and submitting.**
- Applications may be duplicated. County Managers must familiarize themselves with the Registration Application and with the behavior and physical condition of each athlete applying before recommending athletes to this intensive sports training camp.
- **Please do not recommend athletes who you know will not be able to handle the intensity of Sports Camp, the long (often hot) days, walking 1 to 2 miles a day, or who have behavior issues which require more attention than can be provided under a 1 coach to 4 athlete ratio.**
- **Acceptance/Rejection emails** will be sent to the Contact Person by **June 15, 2018**
- **Money envelopes and medication bags** will be mailed to the Contact Person on **July 6, 2018.**