

**For Immediate Release**

**Media Contact:** Wenona Sutton, 610-630-9450, ext. 219, [wsutton@specialolympicspa.org](mailto:wsutton@specialolympicspa.org)

**Day-of Contact:** Gina Reid, 610-247-2180 (cell), [greid@specialolympicspa.org](mailto:greid@specialolympicspa.org)

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS PA TO HOLD ANNUAL EASTERN FALL SECTIONAL AT  
DESALES UNIVERSITY, OCTOBER 14**

*More than 800 athletes will compete in full day of competition in 5 sports*

**(Norristown, PA September 27, 2018)** – Approximately 800 Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) athletes and 350 coaches will embark on the DeSales University Campus, located at 2755 Station Ave. in Center Valley, PA, for the annual Eastern Fall Sectional on Sunday, October 14, 2018.

Athletes from the Eastern 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, Soccer (Individual Skill, 5v5, 7v7 & 11v11, 5v5 and 7v7 Unified Sports®) and volleyball (team and individual skills). Over 400 area volunteers recruited from the college, regional clubs, organizations, schools and the surrounding community will give of their time to support the day's activities and cheer on the athletes.

The Eastern Fall Sectional will kick-off with Opening Ceremonies held at DeSales University's Lacrosse & Field Hockey Turf Field at 9:00 a.m. Competitions will begin at 10:00 a.m. and run until 5:00 p.m. All individual and team competitions will be held on campus with the exception of volleyball which will be held at Southern Lehigh High School.

Athletes will have the opportunity to enjoy Olympic Village from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm outside of Billera Hall. Olympic Village offers athletes a variety of fun activities to keep them busy in between competitions. Numerous DeSales 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 will take place in Billera from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm and is open to all athletes.

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, visit [our website](http://ourwebsite) or contact Wenona Sutton at [wsutton@specialolympicspa.org](mailto:wsutton@specialolympicspa.org).**

**About Special Olympics Pennsylvania**

Special Olympics Pennsylvania provides year-round training and competition in 21 Olympic-type sports to nearly 20,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities or closely related developmental disabilities. For more information about how you can help "Reveal the Champion Inside" thousands of Special Olympics athletes, visit [www.specialolympicspa.org](http://www.specialolympicspa.org).