

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Special Olympics**  
Pennsylvania



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## **Special Olympics Pennsylvania to Host Pittsburgh's Second Annual UNCathlon** *Event Raises over \$50,000 for Pennsylvania Athletes Through Unified Sports*

**Pittsburgh, PA (April 17, 2018)** – Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) will host the second annual Pittsburgh UNCathlon from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, April 22nd at Schenley Park, located at 1 Overlook Drive, Pgh, PA 15217. The UNCathlon will offer 11 events, one more than the traditional 10 found in a decathlon, and feature physical challenges with fundraising accounting for the 11th challenge. The event will bring persons with and without intellectual disabilities together in Unified Sports to benefit nearly 20,000 Special Olympics athletes.

The UNCathlon will involve several co-ed teams of five participants plus a Special Olympics athlete. Each team will take part in 10 physical trials that test speed, strength and endurance. Challenge events will include pull ups, shot put, the 40-yard dash, 400 meter run, 800 meter run, Weighted Bear Crawl sled drag, 2 x 200 meter relay, long jump, 500 meter row, and a mystery event. The 11th event will be the fundraising component that participants complete prior to engaging in the sporting events.

The UNCathlon was initiated by Pittsburgh resident Shannon Barry, who had always dreamed of creating a national awareness fundraising campaign to bring recognition to a cause. Shannon's vision was to incorporate unified play with unconventional fun for an unforgettable experience; and thus, the UNCathlon was born.

This year's event will be hosted by local DJ and Fireside Entertainment owner Eric Burnette. Other guest speakers to include Pittsburgh District 5 Councilman, Corey O'Conner; Special Olympics Pennsylvania President and CEO, Matthew Aaron; and Port Authority Police Chief, Matt Porter.

Presenting Sponsors of the 2018 UNCathlon include Aerotek and Morgan Stanley. Additionally, the UNCathlon's award sponsor is Dollar Bank; competition sponsors are LUXE & SunCap Financial; and nutrition sponsors is Julian Gray. In-kind donors include: True Value Hardware, G&G Fitness, Mecka Fitness, and Athleta & Dons Appliance's.

Event registration is now closed and the event will not accept day-of walk up registrants, but supporters can still give to the athletes of SOPA through online donations. For more information about the event or to donate, call Jessica Kury at 724-375-7515, ext. 244 or visit [www.UNCathlon.org](http://www.UNCathlon.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. For more information about how you can help *Reveal the Champion Inside* thousands of Special Olympics athletes, visit our web site at [www.specialolympicspa.org](http://www.specialolympicspa.org).

### **About Unified Sports®**

Special Olympics Unified Sports® creates an opportunity for people without intellectual disabilities to join in the sports experience by playing on a team with athletes with intellectual disabilities. Not only do the players all have fun, but attitude change and transformation happens on the playing field and the experiences create lifelong friendships. Unified Sports® combines approximately equal numbers of Special Olympics athletes and athletes without intellectual disabilities (called Partners) on sports teams for training and competition. Age and ability matching of athletes and partners is defined on a sport-by-sport basis.

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