



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Special Olympics PA Announces 11th Annual Paterno Family Beaver Stadium Run/Walk Will Continue On Virtually

NORRISTOWN, PA (March 25, 2019) – Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) is excited to announce that its 11th Annual [Paterno Family Beaver Stadium Run](#), presented by the Sheetz family, will continue its tradition **virtually**. During the week leading up to and on Sunday, April 19, 2020 at 11 am, runners and walkers of all ages and abilities can take part in the 3.1-Mile Run and 2-Mile Family Fun Walk as [virtual participants](#). The virtual run/walk will enable individuals to participate at any location, any time, and at any pace at the distance of their choice (3.1 mile run or a 2 mile fun walk). Participants can walk, jog, use the treadmill, run outside, or participate in any other fashion.

“We know this event has become something that people look forward to during Penn State University’s Blue-White Weekend and, while we fully understand and support the University’s decision to cancel Blue-White Weekend during these uncertain times, we wanted to also find a way for everyone to still come together,” said Demika Poole, SOPA’s Director of Special Events. “The virtual run/walk will allow all participants to safely complete their run, keep the tradition and spirit of the event alive, and show that in times of adversity our community truly is stronger together.”

On the morning of Sunday, April 19th, participants can tune into SOPA’s Facebook page at 11 a.m. for the livestream kickoff of the 11th Annual Paterno Family Beaver Stadium Run. The live stream will feature runners and celebrity guests like Sue Paterno and Hall of Fame Steelers Running Back, Franco Harris. We are asking for all participants to take part leading up to or on April 19th and share their progress via social media, using the hashtag **#VirtualBSR**.

All participants will receive via mail an official commemorative Beaver Stadium Run T-shirt. Participants can also raise funds online for added incentives by creating their own fundraising page to garner support from their friends, family and co-workers. Online registration for the Paterno Family Beaver Stadium Run never closes! All participants will be able to register online until the start of the race by visiting www.StadiumRun.org. Members of the public can also [sponsor a participant](#) or make a [general donation](#).

Special Olympics PA is also happy to announce that a raffle is being offered for a lucky winner and three friends to watch the Nittany Lions take on the Ohio State Buckeyes on Saturday, October 24th, which includes VIP access inside the Paterno Family Suite. Raffle tickets can be purchased [online](#) for \$20 through May 29th.

Special Olympics Pennsylvania

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Created by the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation for the benefit of persons with intellectual disabilities

Last year nearly 3,000 runners and walkers took part in the annual event; raising over \$412,000. Proceeds from the Run over the past 10 years have made a huge impact on SOPA's ability to serve more than 20,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities statewide, and has helped to transform countless lives.

In addition to our **Presenting Sponsors** – Sheetz and Paterno families, the 2020 Beaver Stadium Run major event sponsors include: **Alumni Sponsor** – PSECU; **Gold Sponsors** – The Starfish Fund (Suzanne and Al Lord), The Misitano Family and Post-Acute Medical; **Silver Sponsors** – The Lubrano Companies and Dan and Debby McGinn; and **Bronze Sponsors** – Harmelin Media, Intersection, Lamar, NBC Universal, The Meder Family, Yoder Insurance Inc., Realty World, iHeart Radio, the Penn State Alumni Association, WSFS, Di and Dallas Krapf, WPVI – TV, and The Apartment Store/Keystone Realty.

Visit www.StadiumRun.org for more information. To learn more about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Demika Poole at dpoole@specialolympicspa.org.

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

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