



VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY TO HOST SPECIAL OLYMPICS PENNSYLVANIA'S 31ST ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL, NOV. 1 – 3

Weekend Features, Philadelphia Eagles' Alex Singleton, Coach Jay Wright, and Unified Basketball Exhibition between Special Olympics Athletes and the Villanova Wildcats

(Norristown, PA, October 29, 2019) – Special Olympics Pennsylvania's (SOPA) 31st Annual Fall Festival, the largest student-run Special Olympics event in the world, will host approximately 1,200 coaches, athletes and Unified Partners representing 43 Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) programs from Friday, November 1 through Sunday, November 3. More than 3,000 volunteers will be onsite throughout the weekend.

The Games will commence at Villanova University with Opening Ceremonies in the new William B. Finneran Pavilion with special guests Villanova Basketball Coach Jay Wright, the Villanova Wildcats, and Philadelphia Eagles linebacker and SOPA's newest Celebrity Ambassador, Alex Singleton.

Throughout the weekend SOPA athletes will be participating in Roller Skating, Soccer 7v7, Volleyball, Bocce, Long Distance Running, and Powerlifting competitions. Additionally, the weekend will offer Healthy Habits interactive education stations; Healthy Athletes® non-invasive clinical screenings; Young Athletes activities; an "Olympic Town" providing athlete activities in-between sporting events; a Victory Dance; and Closing Ceremonies.

A complete schedule of Fall Festival can be found [here](#).

FRIDAY – OPENING CEREMONIES

WHAT: The 31st Annual Fall Festival kicks off with a unified Basketball game with the Villanova Wildcats and SOPA athletes, a dunk contest, live entertainment and the lighting of the Olympic Torch to signify the official start of the Games.

WHO: Coach Jay Wright, Villanova Men's Basketball
Alex Singleton, Philadelphia Eagles Linebacker
SOPA Leadership

WHEN: Friday, November 1 – **Opening Ceremonies begin at 7:30 p.m.**

WHERE: William B. Finneran Pavilion
1530 County Line Rd in Bryn Mawr, PA.

HIGHLIGHTS: The Unified Basketball game will run from 8:05 to 8:30 p.m. with a 5-minute halftime Dunk Show.

SATURDAY

WHAT: SOPA Athletes compete in a total of six Olympic-type sports. The day will also feature an Olympic Town filled with a variety of fun activities, Healthy Athletes activities, which will offer free health screenings, and a Victory Dance.

MEDIA ALERT
11/1/19 – 11/3/19

Special Olympics
Pennsylvania



WHERE:

Competition Venues –

- **Soccer** – Villanova Stadium/Agnes Irwin School
- **Roller Skating** – Marple Sports Arena
- **Volleyball** – Agnes Irwin School/Jake Nevin Field House
- **Bocce** – Finneran Pavilion
- **Powerlifting** – Villanova Room, Connelly Center
- **Long Distance Running/Walking** Competition begins at Austin Field

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

- **8 a.m.** – Competitions Kick Off (on-going throughout the day)
- **9:30 a.m.**
 - **Long Distance Running/Walking** Competition begins at Austin Field
 - **Young Athletes Program:** is a unique sport and play program for children with intellectual disabilities ages 2-7 in the Bartley Exchange.
- **10 a.m.**
 - **Healthy Habits:** interactive stations on the 1st floor of Driscoll Hall.
 - **Olympic Town:** The Quad (between Sheehan & Sullivan Halls) – Olympic Town will offer athletes a variety of fun activities to keep them busy in between competitions. Villanova student clubs will set up booths and crafts tables, and area businesses will participate.
 - **Healthy Athletes:** activities will be available to Fall Festival participants on the second floor of Driscoll Hall, offering free health screenings and education in six disciplines: Special Smiles, Fit Feet, Healthy Hearing, Opening Eyes, Health Promotions and FUNfitness.
- **4 p.m.** – Competitions conclude for the day
- **7:30 p.m.** – **Victory Dance:** Finneran Pavilion – The Victory Dance is truly a highlight for Special Olympics athletes. The Philadelphia Insurance Award of Valor will be given to one athlete in honor of his/her spirit to overcome challenges.

SUNDAY

WHAT: SOPA Athletes conclude competition in a total of six Olympic-type sports. The day will also feature an Olympics Town filled with a variety of fun activities, Healthy Athletes activities, which will offer free health screenings, and a Closing Ceremony.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

- **8 a.m.** – Competitions Kick Off (on-going throughout the day)
- **9 a.m.**
 - **Olympic Town:** The Quad (between Sheehan & Sullivan Halls) – Olympic Town will offer athletes a variety of fun activities to keep them busy in between competitions. Villanova student clubs will set up booths and crafts tables, and area businesses will participate.
 - **Healthy Athletes:** activities will be available to Fall Festival participants on the second floor of Driscoll Hall, offering free health screenings and education in six disciplines: Special Smiles, Fit Feet, Healthy Hearing, Opening Eyes, Health Promotions and FUNfitness.
- **11 a.m. – 12 p.m.** – Competitions conclude for the day
- **1 – 2 p.m.** – Closing Ceremonies in Jake Nevin Field House

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About Special Olympics Pennsylvania

Special Olympics Pennsylvania 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 more information about how you can join “The Inclusion Revolution,” visit www.specialolympicspa.org.

About Villanova University

Since 1842, Villanova University’s Augustinian Catholic intellectual tradition has been the cornerstone of an academic community in which students learn to think critically, act compassionately and succeed while serving others. There are more than 10,000 undergraduate, graduate and law students in the University's six colleges – the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Villanova School of Business, the College of Engineering, the College of Nursing the Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law, and The College of Professional Studies. [Click here](#) for more information on Villanova University.

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