



## MEDIA ALERT

### SPECIAL OLYMPICS PENNSYLVANIA ATHLETES TO COMPETE IN 2021 WESTERN BOWLING QUALIFIER

*Athletes will be competing to represent Team PA at the 2022 USA Games*

**(Norristown, PA, August 19, 2021)** – More than 30 Special Olympics athletes will be competing in the Western Bowling Qualifier from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 21st at Eastway Lanes located in Erie, PA.

The event will kick off with Opening Ceremonies, which include entertainment and guest appearances. Bowling competition will include singles, doubles, traditional team, and Unified team and doubles. Athletes will be competing for a chance to represent Team Pennsylvania at the 2022 USA Games in Orlando.

Team Pennsylvania will be comprised of 122 athletes, Unified partners, 34 coaches, and 6 staff, who will be competing in 14 Olympic-type sports. The Special Olympics USA Games, which is hosted every four years, will mark the largest humanitarian event in Florida's history. The event will unite more than 5,500 athletes and coaches from all 50 states and the Caribbean. Over 10,000 volunteers will fill more than 20,000 volunteer shifts during the week. It is anticipated that over 125,000 families, friends and spectators will witness inspiring athletic accomplishments in 19 Olympic-style team and individual sports and more than 30 events at world-class venues across Orlando, centered at ESPN Wide World of Sports at Walt Disney World Resort.

Bowling athletes who have won a gold medal at a State Competition in their division in the past three years will be placed into the selection pool, and a drawing will be held to select the 12 bowlers who will represent Team Pennsylvania.

- WHAT:** 2021 Western Bowling Qualifier
- WHO:** More than 30 SOPA athletes and nearly 20 volunteers  
Mike Ruzzi, Erie News Now
- WHEN/WHERE:** Saturday, August 21 at Eastway Lanes – 4110 Buffalo Road, Erie, PA 16510
- SCHEDULE:** 11:30 a.m. Opening Ceremonies  
11:45 – 11:55 a.m. Warm Ups  
12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Competition  
2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Awards

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**About Special Olympics Pennsylvania**

Special Olympics Pennsylvania provides year-round training and competition in 21 Olympic-type sports to approximately 16,000 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](http://www.specialolympicspa.org).

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