

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Special Olympics Pennsylvania Announces Virtual Sports Camp

Join the First Online SOPA Sports Camp

(Norristown PA, August 3, 2020) – Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) is excited to announce the 2020 Virtual Sports Camp that will be offered online from August 9th - 14th. Virtual Sports Camp is available to every registered Special Olympics athlete across the state and will feature 12 sport-specific training videos, camp songs, dance parties, live events such as bingo and trivia, and so much more.

"We are thrilled to be able to offer Sports Camp virtually to all of our athletes this year," said Jennifer Tresp, Training and Unified Sports Director. "Sports Camp is a beloved Special Olympics Pennsylvania tradition that usually can only accommodate approximately 200 campers. To be able to share our camp spirit with the entire state is an exciting opportunity for our volunteers and athletes. We would not be able to do this without the support of the North American Council (NAC) Teen Society of Orthodox Youth Organizations (SOYO) and the exciting activities that they are bringing to this year's virtual event."

Virtual Sports Camp will include morning, afternoon and evening activities that present an opportunity for participants to workout in real time and try new sports. Athletes can follow the <u>daily schedule</u> and join Special Olympics Pennsylvania on Facebook and <u>Youtube</u> to virtually connect with each other and share the spirit of Sports Camp. Special Olympics Pennsylvania's <u>Facebook Event page</u> will provide updates and information concerning the multi-sports camp; and, participants can use #VirtualSportsCamp to share photos and videos demonstrating their participation.

Traditionally, the sports camp provides an intensive training program for athletes that are 12 years of age or older, and the primary sports offered are Swimming, Athletics, Basketball, Bocce, Golf, Flag Football, Soccer, Softball, Tennis, Floor Hockey, Bowling and Volleyball. Each program provides the same gender coach coverage of 1 coach for every 4 athletes.

Sports Camp was created by Ken and Anthony Yazge in accordance with former Special Olympics Pennsylvania President, Frank Dean, to see how their church could positively impact Special Olympics athletes. This week-long multi-sports training camp is funded by the North American Council (NAC) and the Teen Society of Orthodox Youth Organizations (SOYO).

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 more information about how you can join "The Inclusion Revolution," visit <u>www.specialolympicspa.org</u>.