



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Special Olympics Pennsylvania to Celebrate Athlete Success in the Virtual Summer Games From June 12-14

WHAT: **2020 Virtual Summer Games** – The general public is invited to come together virtually to celebrate the success of Special Olympics Pennsylvania athletes who trained and competed from home for the [2020 Virtual Summer Games](#). A series of virtual events will take place on the organization's social media platforms ([Facebook/YouTube](#)) and feature, Opening Ceremonies, competition highlights, celebrity speakers, a Victory Dance and more.

WHEN: **Friday, June 12 through Sunday, June 14** – Virtual Summer Games Schedule:

FRIDAY, JUNE 12th

1 P.M. Welcome to the Games!
3 P.M. Healthy Athletes
7 P.M. Opening Ceremonies

SATURDAY, JUNE 13th

1 P.M. Healthy Habits
4 P.M. Competition Highlights & Unified Sports Experience
7 P.M. Olympic Village – Trivia

SUNDAY, JUNE 14th

10:30 A.M. Olympics Village – Bingo
12:30 P.M. Competition Highlights
3 P.M. Closing Ceremonies & Sheetz Award
6 P.M. Victory Dance

***Media outlets who are interested in airing Virtual Summer Games coverage can receive video segments upon request and can be connected with athletes in their coverage area for interviews*

WHO: **More than 1,000 participating Special Olympics athletes**

Special Guests That Include:

- Governor Tom Wolf
- Former Pro Football player Franco Harris
- Mary Davis, Chief Executive Officer, Special Olympics
- Loretta Claiborne, Special Olympics Chief Inspiration Officer
- Philadelphia Eagles Alex Singleton, Linebacker & Joe Ostman, Defensive End
- Steve Jones, play-by-play voice for Penn State football and men's basketball
- Penn State University athletes, and many others



(NORRISTOWN, PA, June 10, 2020) – Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) is excited to announce that more than 1,000 athletes have competed against their friends and peers from across the state in the [2020 Virtual Summer Games](#), presented by Sheetz. In an effort to virtually celebrate their success, a series of virtual events will air on the organization’s social media platforms from June 12 – 14, 2020.

The Virtual Summer Games was open to every registered athlete and provided them with a safe way to train and compete from home. Athletes were able to pick from 22 challenges representing the eight Summer Games sports (athletics, basketball, equestrian, golf, gymnastics, softball, swimming, and tennis) in which to train and submit results.

Celebratory programming will also include [Virtual “Be a Fan” Torch Run](#) highlights. Typically the “Be a Fan” Torch Run is a 3-day, 150-mile run from Pittsburgh to State College featuring over 500 runners representing more than 50 law enforcement teams that are accompanied or cheered on by local Special Olympics athletes. Energy Transfer is SOPA’s premier “Guardians of the Flame” Law Enforcement Torch Run partner.

Summer Games, SOPA’s largest annual statewide competition, typically brings more than 2,000 athletes, 750 coaches, and more than 1,000 enthusiastic volunteers from across the state together on Penn State University’s main campus for 3 days of competition. This year would have marked the 33rd consecutive year that Penn State University hosted Summer Games. Both organizations are firmly committed to bringing the Summer Games back to State College in 2021.

Presented by Sheetz, Inc., a key SOPA statewide corporate partner for nearly 30 years, Summer Games are also financed in part by a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development. Additional Virtual Summer Games partners include: Wawa, TD Bank, Aerotek, Aramark, Highmark, Geisinger, AmeriHealth Caritas, The Paterno Family, PSECU, NJM Insurance Group, Penn State University, The Happy Valley Adventure Bureau, Dick’s Sporting Goods, Barnes & Noble, PSU, Harmelin Media, Knights of Columbus, Sam’s Club, Walmart, DiPersia Technology Solutions and United Commercial Travelers.

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 or closely related developmental disabilities. For more information about how you can join “The Inclusion Revolution,” visit www.specialolympicspa.org.

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Special Olympics Pennsylvania

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