



Let me win. But, if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.

Mission -- Special Olympics Pennsylvania provides year-round athletic training and competition in 21 Olympic-type sports for individuals with intellectual disabilities and provides them with continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness skills, express courage, and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

Athletes -- Nearly 20,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities or closely related developmental disabilities participate in over 300 local, sectional and state events. Athletes range in age from 8 to 80 and are of all ability levels.

Volunteers -- More than 30,000 volunteers provided the manpower for Special Olympics Pennsylvania last year. Volunteers of all ages serve as coaches, escorts, organizers, fund-raisers, entertainers, or sports officials. Volunteers are always needed!

Competitions -- Special Olympics Pennsylvania competitions are offered year-round in 54 local programs across Pennsylvania. Special Olympics Pennsylvania conducts four statewide competitions -- Fall Festival, Summer Games, Winter Games, and the State Floor Hockey Tournament.

Current Sports -- Special Olympics Pennsylvania offers training and competition in the following events:

SUMMER

Athletics (Track & Field)
Basketball
Equestrian
Golf
Gymnastics
Softball
Swimming (Aquatics)
Tennis

FALL

Bocce
Long Distance
Running/Walking
Powerlifting
Roller Skating
Soccer
Volleyball

WINTER

Alpine Skiing
Bowling
Cross Country Skiing
Speed Skating
Figure Skating
Floor Hockey
Snow Shoeing

Emerging Sports -- The following sports are new to SOPA: Cycling, Flag Football and Kayaking. Training and local competitions may be taking place, but competition will not be offered at the State Level until the training numbers meet the requirement for adding a new sport.

Benefits -- A 1995 study by Yale University confirmed that Special Olympics contributes to the physical, social and psychological development of people with intellectual disabilities. Through successful experiences in sports, they gain confidence and build a positive self-image that carries over into the classroom, the home, the job, and the community.

Funding -- Special Olympics Pennsylvania is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization that raises the funds through the generosity of individuals, companies, and foundations.

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