

What is the mission of Special Olympics?

The mission of Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills, and friendships with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

Who can participate?

Individuals who are at least eight years old and have been identified by an agency or professional as having one of the following conditions: Intellectual disabilities or cognitive delays as measured by formal assessment. These individuals are then required to obtain a physical and a parent or guardian release form. These forms must be kept current and on file with Lycoming County Special Olympics program. It does not cost the athletes anything to participate.

Why should I volunteer?

Special Olympics volunteers come from all walks of life, all income brackets, and all age groups. Although no experience is necessary many bring specialized skills with them. Others sign on to learn new things. Simply put, the volunteers do it all. Whatever your interests, there are great volunteer opportunities for you at Special Olympics. From the one-day volunteer to those that can serve as coaches or committee members, your volunteer support is needed.

What is the meaning of the Special Olympics logo?

The logo has five people who each have six arms. The down position means "downtrodden," remembering a time when many people thought those with intellectual disabilities were not able to make good decisions or try new things. This often describes the lives of athletes before they became involved in Special Olympics. Many had few friends and spent most of their time alone. The straight arms mean "equal," showing that our athletes are just like everyone else. The raised arms represent "joy," and realizing ultimate goals. The five people represent the five continents involved in Special Olympics at the time the logo was created. The people are placed in a circle to represent the world as there are Special Olympic athletes and volunteers in almost every country around the globe.

What sports programs does Special Olympics PA Lycoming County offer?

Athletics, Basketball, Bocce, Bowling, Cross Country Skiing, Equestrian, Floor Hockey, Golf, Long Distance Running / Walking, Soccer, Snowshoeing, and Volleyball

How does sports training work?

Athletes participating in any of the sports programs will be required to train a minimum of eight weeks in order to compete in the local events. After competing at the local level, athletes can be selected to attend regional, sectional, and/or state competitions. Anyone missing scheduled training sessions would be expected to make up those sessions with the coach.

How many athletes and volunteers participate in Special Olympics PA Lycoming County?

Presently 159 athletes and 18 unified partners are afforded the opportunity to train and compete in 13 different Olympic-style individual and team sports throughout the year. 163 Volunteers are currently offering their time and energy to making our program a wonderful success. They volunteer as coaches, administrators, equipment managers, just to name a few opportunities.

Our year is divided into three seasons: Summer, Fall, and Winter with each season offering specific sports. The summer season is the busiest with athletes participating in aquatics, athletics, basketball, equestrian, and soccer. The fall sports offered are bocce, bowling, golf, long distance running, long distance walking, and volleyball. In the winter, cross-country skiing, floor hockey, and snowshoeing are the sports of choice.

What does the management team do?

The Management Team oversees the operation of the Lycoming County Special Olympics Program.

How does Special Olympics PA Lycoming County operate?

Our premier fundraising events are the annual Golf Tournament in June and the Frostbite Race in December. We are extremely grateful to our many donors, sponsors, and contributors for these events and to the program for general expenses. Please consider a monetary donation to help keep the Special Olympics PA Lycoming County program going strong.