

AM I ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE?

Special Olympics training and competition is open to every person:

- ✓ With an intellectual disability, a cognitive delay, or a closely related developmental disability.
- ★has been identified by an agency or professional as having an intellectual disability as determined by their localities.
- ★has a cognitive delay as determined by standardized measures such as intelligence quotient or "IQ" testing or other measures which are generally accepted within the professional community in Virginia as being a reliable measure of the existence of a cognitive delay.
- ★has a closely related developmental disability, which means having functional limitations in both general learning (such as IQ) and in adaptive care (such as recreation, work, independent living, self-direction, or self-care).
- ✓ Who is at least eight years old.

HOW CAN I REGISTER?

If you are an athlete, you must complete two forms. All training and activities are free.

- ✓ *Official Special Olympics Release Form*, which must be signed, as appropriate, by the athlete, a parent, or a guardian.
- ✓ *Application For Participation In Special Olympics*, which asks for emergency contact and insurance information as well as a health history. A physician must sign the form.

If you are a volunteer, you must complete the appropriate *Volunteer Registration Form*.

All forms can be obtained from Area 3 contacts or downloaded off the internet at:

<http://www.area3specialolympicsva.com/>.

THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS OATH
Let me win. But if I cannot win,
let me be brave in the attempt.



THE SPIRIT OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS
Skill Courage Sharing Joy



AREA 3

www.area3specialolympicsva.org



Special Olympics
Virginia

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES



**SERVING CHARLOTTESVILLE
AND THE COUNTIES OF
ALBEMARLE, GREENE, LOUISA,
AND FLUVANNA**

www.area3specialolympicsva.org

WHAT IS SPECIAL OLYMPICS?

Special Olympics is an international organization dedicated to empowering individuals with an intellectual disability, a cognitive delay, or a closely related developmental disability to become physically fit, productive, and respected members of society through sports training and competition. Special Olympics began in 1968 when Eunice Kennedy Shriver organized the First International Special Olympics Games at Soldier Field in Chicago, Illinois. The idea first began when Shriver started a day camp for people with intellectual disabilities in the early 1960's. Special Olympics offers children 8 and over and adults with these disabilities year-round training and competition in 26 Olympic type summer and winter sports. Special Olympics currently serves more than one million persons in more than 200 programs in more than 150 countries.

WHAT IS OUR MISSION?

To provide year round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for all children and adults with an intellectual disability, a cognitive delay, or a closely-related developmental disability, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community.



HOW ARE WE ORGANIZED?

Special Olympics is divided into seven Regional Offices throughout the world. The North American Region has some 77 programs, including one in each state in the United States. Special Olympics Virginia (SOVA) is headquartered in Richmond and is divided into five Sections – North, Northwest, Southwest, Southeast, and Central. Each Section is divided into Areas; and there are a total of 24 areas in the state. Area 3, which serves Charlottesville and the counties of Albemarle, Greene, Louisa, and Fluvanna, comes under the Northwest Section that is headquartered in Harrisonburg. Area 3 is governed by an Area 3 Council, which includes a Chairperson, Treasurer, and Secretary, as well as committees involved with public relations and promotion; athlete recruitment; volunteer, family involvement, and outreach; fund raising; medical; and sports training.

CONTACT AREA 3 AT 434-973-3185



WHAT SPORTS DO WE OFFER?

Area 3 offers training in nine different sports scheduled throughout the year. Interested athletes and volunteers should contact Area 3 Special Olympics for the current schedule.

Basketball	January-March
Swimming	March-May
Track/Field	April-May
Tennis	April-May
Golf	August-October
Soccer	August-October
Gymnastics	October-December
Bowling	November-February
Skiing	November-January

