

SPORTLIGHT

Spring 2024



Special Olympics
Michigan
Area 30

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Editor: Mary Adams

2024 SPORTS CALENDAR AREA 30 SPECIAL OLYMPICS

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| April 6 (Saturday) | Athletics/Bocce Practice Begins |
| May 4 (Saturday) | Area 31 Track Meet Hale |
| May 11 (Saturday) | Area 9 Track Meet Bay City |
| May 18 (Saturday) | Area 30 Track Meet Midland High School |
| May 18 (Saturday) | Walk-A-Thon Fundraiser Midland High School |
| May 30—June 1 (Thursday/Saturday) | State Summer Games CMU |
| June 4 (Tuesday) | Cycling Practice Begins Senior Center Parking Lot |
| June 6 (Thursday) | Softball Practice Begins Midland High School |
| June 17 (Monday) | Soccer Practice Begins Midland Soccer Complex |
| June 22 (Saturday) | Golf Practice Begins Currie Golf Course |
| August 4 (Sunday) | Golf Outing Fundraiser Sandy Ridge Golf Course |
| August 21 (Wednesday) | Family HOF Banquet Plymouth Park, Shelter "F" |
| September 5 (Monday/Thursday) | Flag Football Begins Midland High School |
| September 10 (Tuesday) | YAP Program Begins Blessed Sacrament |

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AREA DIRECTOR CORNER

Hello Everyone! I hope everyone had a great winter sports season. It has been a busy winter and spring season thus far. We all enjoyed our Winter Games and the Basketball Districts and State Games. Everyone had a successful season, and we are very proud of all our athletes for the great job they all did!!

Many previous and new athletes have come out to participate, and it has been great seeing you all!

Our spring sports season has just begun. Please check our Area Sports Calendar for upcoming event and dates. FYI—The calendar is posted on our area webpage. If you need a copy, let me know, and I will send you one.

Track and Bocce are currently underway. The State Summer Games will be held @ CMU on May 30—June 1.

Softball, Cycling, and Soccer will start in June. Watch the mail for a letter/email from your coaches on start dates.

We are here to assist you if you are interested in participating in any of our programs or in becoming a coach or volunteer. We also have sponsorship opportunities.

A special thanks to John Muisenga, Ann Gach, Mary Adams, and Gregg Young for their continued support and assistance.

Also, a special thank you to all of our coaches and volunteers for their time and effort in working with our athletes. You are all greatly appreciated! We couldn't do it without everyone working together :)

Looking forward to seeing everyone this spring and summer!



DISTRICT BASKETBALL RESULTS

Our two male teams—Warriors and Celtics—attended the District Basketball Tournament on Friday, March 3 @ CMU. The Warriors brought home 2nd place and the Celtics brought home 4th place. Congratulations to the athletes on another successful season of competition!

The **Warriors** were coached by Lisa Schwager, Tracey Tatum, and Gregg Young. Congratulations to: Konrad Anders, Jameson Baker, Tanner Bowerson, James Brisboy, Josh DiMercurio, Jordan Harvey, Eric Kuch, Jacob Schwager, Austin Shaver, and Brad Sheets.

The **Celtics** had a fun time at Districts, even though they lost both games! Head coaches Jeff Dyer and Jeff Pitt send their congratulations to: Lincoln Barringer, Justin Dyer, Brayden Meyers, Silas Pitt, Jack Richardson, Josh Shouse, Andy Tudethout, Austin Upton, Adam White, and Andy Young.

CELTICS BASKETBALL

by: Jeff Dyer/Jeff Pitt, Head Coaches

This year's team welcomed one new player - Brayden Meyers - giving our team 10 players. The team had a great combination of experienced and new athletes. Each player contributed to the overall success of the Celtics. We were thankful that we could practice in a full-sized gym (Jefferson Middle School). The athletes worked very hard this year. We played in multiple tournaments: Shepherd, West Branch, and Saginaw. We hit a slight bump in the road in a few games, playing some very tough opponents. The Celtics ended the year with four victories and seven losses. Overall, this was another great season for the Celtics!!

Thank you to Gregg Young for scheduling the games, arranging transportation, and working with the schools for gym time. Also, a big THANK YOU to our referees, our scorekeepers, and to the parents and fans for your support and enthusiasm! Last but not least, a big THANK YOU to our spouses for their patience and understanding. We are looking forward to another awesome season in 2023!

WARRIORS BASKETBALL

by: Lisa Schwager, Head Coach

The Warriors (formerly the Timberwolves) had a great season!! We had ten returning athletes. We went undefeated again this season! Each athlete did a fantastic job, and everyone improved their basketball skills tremendously. We are so proud of you! You all played very well.

Thank you to **Gregg Young** for scheduling our season, securing transportation, and refereeing all our games. Thanks to all who helped with the season from coaches to athlete transporters and fans/families in the stands. Thanks for the opportunity to coach these fine athletes! A special thanks to my co-coaches: Tracey Tatum and Gregg Young.

SUPERCATS BASKETBALL

by: Lauren Saj, Head Coach

The Super Cats had 10 amazing and talented ladies and three coaches. The coaches were Lauren Saj, Karen Muehlfelt, and Deb Lambertson. Congratulations on an amazing season to: Sara Banaszak, Amanda Brown, Jessica Day, Sarah Geisert, Laura Lambertson, Laura Lorenzo, Shelby Muehlfelt, Heather Naessens, Heather Wellman, Jessica Rine, and Miyami Yokomizo. The ladies learned new skills, drills, and techniques. These ladies really showed the true meaning of having good sportsmanship and being a team player. We attended three different tournaments, improving at each one. Throughout the sessions, we were faced with several challenges—such as room adjustment, illness, and work schedules—but these ladies went above and beyond to adapt to every challenge that arose. At each practice, we learned a new sign and talked about our goals and achievements from the evening or from previous tournaments. Not only did these ladies improve in their skills, but they really became a team and grew their friendships as well! We want to thank all of our families and staff for your support throughout this awesome season. We can't wait until next year. The progress that these ladies made was amazing!

STATE BASKETBALL GAMES

by: Lauren Saj, Head Coach

Basketball State Games were held @ the Special Olympics Training Center in Grand Rapids on March 16. We were very excited to play against two all-lady teams. We are beyond proud of the hard work they put in this season. Our passing and guarding were excellent. The ladies brought home fourth place. We had a great day!



L-R: Coach Lisa Schwager, Tanner Bowerson, Eric Kuch (back), Austin Shaver, Josh DiMercurio, Jordan Harvey, Konrad Anders, Jameson Baker (back), James Brisboy, Jacob Schwager, Brad Sheets, Coach Tracey Tatum



Front row: Austin Upton, Jack Richardson, Justin Dyer
Back row: Andy Tudethout, Adam White, Brayden Meyers, Silas Pitt
Missing: Lincoln Barringer, Josh Shouse, Andy Young



Front row: Laura Lambertson, Sara Geisert, Heather Wellman, Jessica Day, Amanda Brown
Second row: Shelby Muehlfelt, Jessica Rine, Miyami Yokomizo, Laura Lorenzo, Sara Banaszak

REGIONAL BASKETBALL SKILLS TOURNAMENT

By: Sue Crane, Coordinator

On March 11, we hosted our annual Regional Basketball Skills Tournament. We had 13 athletes from Midland and 4 athletes from Flint competing in the following skills: Passing, Speed Dribbling, Shooting, and 10M Dribbling. The athletes were so supportive of each other, and everyone did an awesome job! The competition was great, and everyone truly lived up to the Athlete Oath! And as always, the athletes especially enjoyed receiving medals! Check out all the great pictures on our Facebook page.

A special thanks to Robin Rauner and the **Midland Civitan Club** who, once again, provided refreshments for everyone in attendance. The athletes really look forward to the treats at the end of competition! And an extra thanks to the ladies for setting up and serving. Thank you for your continued support!

Erica/Joann/Steve Roy and Paul/Maria Kalitta

Thanks for all your work this year! It truly takes a Village to coordinate all of the events each night and at the tournament.

We wish to thank the following volunteers for their assistance with this tournament:

Deb Schultz/Tina Kocis

Thanks for tabulating scores.

Paul/Maria Kalitta, Erica/Joann/Steve Roy, Tim Crane/Ann Gach/ Jon Thiel

Thank you for volunteering @ each station. You did a superb job in keeping score and assisting the athletes.

Mary Adams

Thank you for taking/posting pictures.

Maria Kalitta/Erica Roy/Lisa Schwager/Josh DiMercurio

Thank you for awarding the medals.

Family/Friends/Staff

Thank you for coming to the event and for cheering on the athletes. It really makes a difference to have you there supporting them. And thanks to all the staff that bring the athletes each week. We really appreciate your help!

Siebert Elementary School

Thank you to the staff @ Siebert Elementary School. We so appreciate you letting us use your gym!

We are blessed to have so many amazing volunteers that helped with this tournament—we could not do it without you!

Following is the award each athlete received. CONGRATULATIONS on your achievements!!

Area 30

- Jennifer Banaszak—Gold
- Jacob Crane—Gold
- Jaydenlee Davis—Gold
- Kevin Davis—Silver
- Colleen Dolan—Silver
- Thomas Drout—Gold
- Gabe Kalitta—Silver
- Carter Roy-Davis—Gold
- Gary Rozinski—Gold
- Tim Spitnale—Bronze
- Kendall Thiel—Silver
- Ricky Warner—Silver
- Justine Wenzel—Gold



Area 13

- Mary Bartel—Silver
- Ivan Kardell—Gold
- Jaclyn Kraus—Silver
- Sarah Smole—Gold



Basketball Skills Athletes from A30 and A13



1st row: Erica Roy, Ann Gach, Maria Kalitta, Joann Roy, Lisa Schwager
2nd row: Sue Crane, Steve Roy, Paul Kalitta, Jon Thiel, Tim Crane



Our new basketball t-shirts. Our athletes look awesome!!



TRACK & FIELD/BOCCE PRACTICES

Track and Bocce practices are held on **Saturday, April 6.13.20.27 and May 4.11.**

Practices are held from 9:30-11:30 am at various locations. Our head track coach is Ann Gach; contact Ann @ anngach96@gmail.com if you have track questions. Gregg Young is the head bocce coach. Contact Gregg @ 989-492-2029 if you have bocce questions. Ann/Gregg notified the athletes of the practice locations.

AREA 31 TRACK MEET—MAY 4

The Area 31 Track meet will be held on Saturday, May 4 @ Hale High School from 11-3 pm. Letters were given to the athletes attending this meet with details.

AREA 9 TRACK MEET—MAY 11

The Area 9 Track meet will be held on Saturday, May 11 @ Bay City Central High School from 11-3 pm. Letters were given to the athletes attending this meet with details.



AREA TRACK/BOCCE MEET—MAY 18

Mark your calendars for our Area Track/Bocce meet on Saturday, May 18 @ Midland High School from 11-3 pm. Athletes from Area 9 (Bay City), Area 31 (Tawas), and Area 32 (Cadillac) will join us. The Sanford Knights of Columbus will provide manpower support. If there is inclement weather, a decision will be made that morning.

STATE SUMMER GAMES—May 30-June 1

The State Summer Games will be held on May 30—June 1 @ CMU. We are sending a delegation of 60 athletes/volunteers. Athletes will be competing in Athletics, Bocce, and Swimming. For an athlete to attend these games, they must: 1) attend their sports specific practices; 2) participate in our Area Meet; and 3) have a current Special Olympics form. Athletes attending these games have been notified by their respective sports coach.

- Athletics — Ann Gach
- Aquatics — John Muisenga
- Bocce — Gregg Young

CYCLING PRACTICE

Cycling practices will start on **Tuesday, June 4.** We will meet in the Senior Center Parking lot at 4:30pm. Practice will end at 6:00 pm; be sure to eat something healthy prior to practice! We will have extra water for after practice; please bring your water bottle to ride with you.

Practice locations will vary so a printed schedule will be handed out at the first practice.

Please make sure you have your paperwork up to date and have checked your equipment prior to the first practice. If anyone is interested in joining us on the cycling team, please know you must have a bicycle in good working order; helmet and gloves are recommended and a water bottle to be held on your bike.

See you on June 4! All riders are welcome! Any questions, please email Elaine Yokomizo at emyoko7@gmail.com.



UNIFIED GOLF PRACTICES

by: Jon Thiel, Golf Coach

It is that time of year to get into the swing of Spring! Join Special Olympics on Saturday afternoons @ Currie Golf Course driving Range @ 1 pm. Our **first practice is Saturday, June 22.**

Golf rounds will be held on Saturday afternoons in June/July/August/September. The schedule will be determined by June 1.

If you are interested in golfing or being an Unified Partner, contact Jon @ 989-798-2741 or Jon.Thiel@Nexteer.com



SOFTBALL PRACTICES

Softball practices will be held on Thursday evenings from 6-8 pm @ Midland High School softball fields. Our **first practice is Thursday, June 6.** Practices will be held from June-August.

Dan Brown, Ray Bowerson, and Duane Moe are returning as the softball coaches (thank you!) The Softball team will attend games and tournaments during the season and then attend the State Fall Games in Canton on Friday, August 23.



SOFTBALL SKILLS PRACTICES

Softball Skills practices will be held on **Tuesday** evening, **starting June 4** and continue thru August 13. Practices will be held @ the **Miracle Field from 6-7 pm.** Sue Crane is the coach. Contact Sue @ 989-860-8677 or scrane@svsu.edu if you'd like to participate or volunteer.

SOCCER PRACTICES

Soccer practices will start on **Monday, June 17** and will be held every Monday evening from **6:00-7:30 pm.** Practices will be held @ the **Midland Soccer Complex.** We will have two teams—coached by Lisa Schwager and Erica Roy/Jon Thiel. Contact Lisa @ area30@somi.org or 989-329-0850 if you are interested in participating or volunteering.



FLAG FOOTBALL PRACTICES

Flag Football practices will be held on **Tuesday/Thursday evenings** from **6:00-7:30 pm @ Midland High** practice field next to the softball diamond. The **first practice will be Thursday, September 5.** The coaches are Gregg Young, Jeff Pitt, and Lisa Schwager. Contact Gregg Young @ 989-492-2029 if you'd like to participate or volunteer.

REGIONAL AQUATICS MEET

by: John Muisenga, Aquatics Coach

We held our annual Regional Aquatics Meet on Saturday, March 9 @ Dow High School pool. We had 4 areas attend from Mt. Pleasant, Roscommon, Saginaw, and Midland. There were 53 athletes competing in three events. Events started @ 10:05 am and finished around 12:40 pm, followed by a pizza lunch. We had a nice add to the meet this year as the Midland Police did a "Pool Plunge" with athletes after completion of the meet. My thanks to Susan Drumright for inviting the Midland Police.

It takes an awesome group of volunteers to help pull off a successful regional swim meet. THANK YOU! Many thanks to the following people/groups for making this swim meet a huge success for Area 30! A special shout-out to the Midland Fire Department and Dow High School for all their support.

Registration

Mary Adams

Timers/Recorders

Ray Drumright, Lynne DiMercurio, Tim Crane, Kim White, Deb/Brian Lamberton

Runners/Marshalls/Pool Deck Support

Deb Schultz, Pesi Kennett, Vince Mathews, Sara Gach

Announcer

Ann Gach

Award Writers

Arlene Bernard, Ruth Muisenga

Award Presenters

Ryan Baxter/Gunner Wright/Morgan Sundberg (Midland Police)

Lunch Preparation/Servers

Sue Crane, Maureen Drake, Frank/Jim How, Sandy VanHaaren

Lifeguard

Andrew Heye (Midland Community Center)

Midland Fire Department Paramedics

Garrett Druelle/Nolan Witt/Justin Purvis

Concessions

Robin Rauner (Midland Civitan Club)

Photographer

Lisa Schwager

Starter

John Muisenga

Singer

Ann Green (Blessed Sacramento Church)



A special thanks to Mary Adams for finalizing the swim database and preparing the swim cards for the swim events.

You can view pictures from the meet on Facebook @ www.facebook.com/Midland.Area30. Thanks to Lisa Schwager taking these wonderful pictures!

SEE OUR AREA 30 SWIMMERS IN ACTION!!!

YOUNG ATHLETES PROGRAM

by: Lori Wright, YAP Coordinator

SOMI YAP — Special Olympics Michigan Young Athletes Program. Cognitive Challenged kids from 2-8 have their own sports program! So many of these kids enjoy going to their siblings sports games but secretly wish they could play. This program is for them! They will run, jump, swing their arms, and play individual sports.



We are looking to implement this program in September. Our **first practice will be Tuesday, September 10 from 6-7 pm @ Blessed Sacrament Gym**. We plan on meeting twice/month during September/October.

We are delighted to have two co-coaches head up this program—Cheyenne French and Corissa Wahr. We are very excited to implement this YAP program, and we thank Cheyenne and Corissa for taking on this responsibility.

If you are interested in this program for your child, contact Lori @ lorisuewright@gmail.com.

FAMILY HALL OF FAME

Our annual Family Hall of Fame will be held on **Wednesday, August 21 from 6-8 pm @ Plymouth Park, Shelter F** (by Fun Zone).

This year, we will induct one family into the Family Hall of Fame. This is a special recognition program in which we honor families and volunteers that support and assist our Special Olympics program.

To nominate a candidate, send a letter of recognition that includes the name of the person or family, years of service, and a brief explanation of why you feel the candidate deserves this honor. Nominations are due to Lisa Schwager by May 30. (email: Area30@somi.org).

AREA 30 WELCOMES NEW ATHLETES!

Welcome to the following athletes who have joined our program:

*Jacob Fitrakis
Jack Harris
Van Lyon
Anna Ruter*



FUNDRAISING NEWS!

POLAR PLUNGE 2024

The annual Polar Plunge was held on Saturday, February 17 @ the Dow Diamond. A record \$58,000(!) was raised between the Midland and Bay City Police Departments, with Midland winning the friendly competition for most monies raised!! A portion of the monies raised will be given directly to Area 30. Our athletes —Mike Biby and Elizabeth Gisse—were judges for this Plunge! Great job Mike and Elizabeth!!

TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE

The Knights of Columbus held their annual Tootsie Roll Drives in March/April. The KofC Councils from the local Catholic parishes support our program yearly with monies raised.

SPONSOR-A-CHAMP FUNDRAISER

Our annual SAC fundraising campaign will be sent out in April. Letters are sent to area businesses, churches, organizations and miscellaneous donors. This fundraiser helps support our athletes attending the State Summer Games @ CMU on May 30-June 1. Contact John Muisenga @ jamuisenga@charter.net if you are interested in sponsoring a champ or being added to the mailing list.

WALK-A-THON FUNDRAISER—MAY 18

Our third annual Walk-A-Thon will be held Saturday, May 18 @ the Midland High School track prior to our Area Summer Games Meet. Registration begins @ 9:00 am. Walking will be held from 9:30-10:30 am. The flyer and donor form are in this newsletter. Sue Crane is coordinating this fundraiser. Contact Sue (scrane@svsu.edu) if you would like to volunteer and/or have questions.

WHEELHOUSE/GOLF OUTING— SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

Save the date now and mark your calendar for the fourth annual Wheelhouse/Special Olympics Midland Golf Outing, which will be held @ Sandy Ridge Golf Course on Sunday, August 4. More details will be coming soon. We are grateful to have Chris Noel coordinating this golfing outing. If you would like to support or volunteer for this event, contact John Muisenga @ jamuisenga@charter.net or 989-859-1595.

MICHIGAN LETR TORCH RUN

This annual fundraiser has been held for many years the third week of September. We are looking forward to resuming this fundraiser again this year. For the past 7 years, we were the top money generator and hope to do so again this year! No details have yet been confirmed, but we'll send out information when details are confirmed.

SOMI-FIT

By: Deb Lambertson, Coordinator

Our Special Olympic Health and Wellness class has been a hit! We have been meeting every Monday from 6-7 pm @ the Midland Mall. Every week, we have a different speaker, along with our activities. We had Trisha Fenby, a personal trainer, teach us about exercising at home without buying equipment. We also had Erin Vaillancourt, a Dietitian, guide us with healthy eating and portions control information.

If you are a Special Olympic athlete, we would love to have you join us. Contact Deb @ dlamberton333@yahoo.com for more information.

Following is our April schedule for our remaining sessions:

April 22

Different ways to get exercise- Belly Dance Instructor - Mary Ann Tolly

April 29

Ways to Handle Stress- Social Worker -Shannon Rose

May 6

NO CLASS

May 13

Pilates and last class SOMI FIT stats!



SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETE FORM

Is your Special Olympics form up to date? If not, an athlete will not be allowed to compete until the form is current. Forms are available through Lisa Schwager; call 989-329-0850 to check your form status.





"BOWLING BUDDIES" BOWLING LEAGUE

by: *Erica Roy/Tina Kocsis, Coach*

Bowling Buddies had a great season! We will wrap up our bowling season with our banquet on Saturday, April 27. We will be handing out trophies and also having a raffle. Everyone did amazing this year!!

We do not have a start date yet for the Fall season but are hoping to have dates at the banquet. Bowling is held on Saturday afternoons from 1:30-3:30 pm @ Northern Lanes.

FYI. This is not Special Olympics sponsored, which means that Special Olympics does not pay for bowling. Also, bowlers need to provide their own transportation.

Everyone is welcomed to join Bowling Buddies! We just need a current phone number. There is no age limit. We are asking that new bowlers join before November 1 as that is our cut-off date for all bowlers.

We ask that all bowlers be there on time. We understand that things come up and things happen but with the new system at Northern, we cannot add anyone once people have bowled five frames.

If anyone is assisting a bowler (i.e. staff or family), they will be required to wear bowling shoes.

Contact either Erica (ericadavis9009@gmail.com) or Tina Kocsis (tj_kocsis@yahoo.com) for more information.

AMANDA BROWN POETRY

Amanda is a Special Olympics athlete who is multi-talented. Besides participating in sports, she is also an accomplished photographer and poet. We are proud to publish Amanda's beautiful poetry and hope you enjoy future poetry from Amanda.

NATURE HELPS YOU

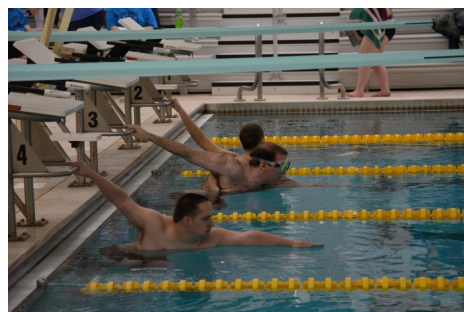
By: *Amanda Brown*

May the shadows rise in
The golden sun, the day
Is almost done to darkness
Overcome it always comes to this.

Can't be right, I can't see
Anymore where is the light?
Look in the sky a
Big moon shining bright little

Bright twinkles they called stars
They are like night lights too
Pierce through the dark and
Find your way to home.

Let the stars and light
Bugs help get you down
The path. let them help
You, you're lost and alone.



THANK YOU!!

A special THANK YOU to the following people and organizations for their generous contributions:

- *KofC #8043*
- *Kroger*
- *Bernadine LeBeau*
- *United Way*
- *Paul & Kim White*

Thank you to the volunteers who assisted with the Polar Plunge on February 17.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS MICHIGAN (SOMI) NEW IMPROVED WEBSITE

Check out the SOMI website. It is very easy and user friendly. To view our area webpage, follow these steps:

1. Log into the website → www.somi.org
2. Click on: "Find Your Local Area" on top of the page
3. Select "Mid-Michigan Region", then "Area 30"

This page is specific to our area and has many forms you can access. Our sports and contact information is listed. We also have a link to our area Facebook page. This webpage is updated continuously. Feel free to share this with your family, friends, co-workers, etc.

Any questions, contact Erica Roy @ 989-418-9859 or email: ericadavis9009@gmail.com

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK!!

Have you "LIKED" us on Facebook? We post several times/week. Check out all the latest happenings on our Facebook page:

www.Facebook.com/Midland.Area30

Erica Roy is our administrator. Feel free to contact her if you would like something added to the page.

- Erica Roy—ericadavis9009@gmail.com



Birthdays

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY To Our
Special Athletes and Volunteers!**

February

Adit Biju
Kristian Davis
Josh DiMercurio
Kyle Eaton
Jenny Finzel
Maria Kalitta
Isabella Miller
James Morr
Heather Naessens
Izzy Perez
Jack Richardson
Jessica Rine
Joann Roy
Ricky Warner
Jody Wiley

March

Sara Banaszak
Arlene Bernard
Jim Bernard
James Brisbois
Dan Brown
Jordan Harvey
Gabe Kalitta
Harold Kenega
Eric Kuch
Deb Lamberton
Jacob Schwager
Mark Sweeney

April

Amanda Brown
Eric Chesney
Greg Corrión
Tim Crane
Jaydenlee Davis
Bruce Fahlgren
Kay Harley
Van Lyon
Megan Micsak
Ruth Muisenga
Eric Roy
Jessalyn Smith

May

Elizabeth Gisse
Ben Guffey
Misty Holloman
Morgan Keel
Pesi Kennett
Shelby Muehlfelt
Renee Morris
Jeff Pitt
Adam Roy
Erica Roy
Lisa Schwager

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY



AREA 30 SPECIAL OLYMPICS GUIDELINES FOR ATTENDANCE AT STATE TOURNAMENTS

Following are a list of guidelines for selecting athletes to attend state tournaments (i.e. basketball, soccer, track, softball, etc):

1. PRACTICE

To qualify for a state tournament, the athlete must attend a minimum of six (6) practices. All of our sport seasons consist of at least an 8-week training program. It is only fair to take an athlete to the state meet who participated in the training and competition versus an athlete who has not. Our philosophy is that an athlete who is not trained will not be ready for sports competition.

2. FREQUENCY

This means how many times an athlete attends a state tournament. Generally, athletes that have never been to a state meet or have not attended one within the past year will be selected. However, there are exceptions. For example, it is the swimming coach's discretion to choose the swimmers; many of our swimmers have been in the program for years, and they may be continuously selected to attend the state swimming tournament. If an athlete participates in all the Special Olympics sport events (i.e. soccer, basketball, softball, etc), *generally* they are not chosen to attend the summer games. **WE TRY TO BE AS FAIR AS POSSIBLE. WE WANT EVERYONE TO HAVE THEIR TURN; HOWEVER, THEY MUST FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES TO BE CONSIDERED.**

3. INDEPENDENT

The athlete must be fairly independent. The chaperones have responsibility for four (4) athletes and cannot be expected to devote their full attention to just 1 athlete. We do not and will not have time to "pamper" them; one must not stifle the ability an athlete has if allowed to show it. **THIS IS A LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR THE ATHLETE.** Let's not ruin it by suffocating the athlete.

4. BEHAVIOR

The athlete must display good behavior. They must be able to take **DIRECT ORDERS** from the chaperones. They must behave appropriately. We will tolerate misbehavior at times; however, we will not endure misbehavior constantly from anyone.

NOTE: Misbehavior consists of the following: bad attitude, unwilling to listen or cooperate, stealing, unexplained absences, excessive foul language, overly aggressive behavior, running away, etc.

5. ATTITUDE

If an athlete refuses a ribbon or medal at a state tournament, they will not be allowed to attend that specific tournament of a period of 1 year.

6. UPDATED FORMS

In order for an athlete to participate, their Special Olympics Health Appraisal Form must be updated. This form includes a medical portion, which needs to be signed and dated by a doctor, and the legal guardian section which needs to be signed and dated by the athlete's legal guardian. If an athlete is their own guardian, they may sign that portion.

WALK-A-THON



To Support Special Olympics Midland (Area 30)

- Who Can Participate?** Athletes, Family, Friends, Volunteers
- When:** Saturday, May 18, 2024, before the Area Summer Games
- What Time:** 9:00 am – 9:30 am - Registration
9:30 am – 10:30 am - Walk
10:30 am – Snack Bag for Walkers
If you can, stay to cheer on the Athletes Participating in the Area Summer Games.
- Where:** Midland High School Track
1301 Eastlawn Dr.
Midland, MI 48642
- How to Register:** You must pre-register by Saturday, May 11, 2024. Contact Sue Crane at (989)860-8677 or scrane@svsu.edu. Please leave a message with the information requested below if I am not able to answer the phone.

Information Needed from Walkers:

Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Use the Walk-a-thon Sponsor Sheet to keep track of your donors and the amount they donate. All donations are required to be turned in at registration the day of the event.

All proceeds benefit Special Olympics Midland year-round sports training and competition programs.



Midland Special Olympics (Area 30) Walk-a-thon Donor Sheet

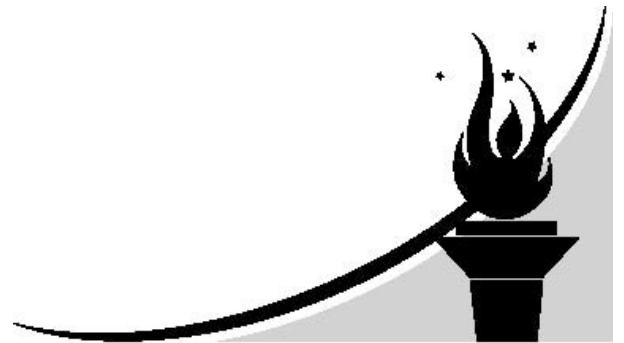
Walker Name: _____

Phone Number: _____



| | Donor Name | Donor Address | Cash or Check | Check Number | Amount |
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THANK YOU for your donation! All proceeds benefit Special Olympics Midland year-round sports training and competition programs.



**COME SHARE THE SPIRIT OF
AREA 30 SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

- Send information on enrolling athletes in Special Olympics
- Send information on volunteering for Special Olympics
- Send information on how I can involve my organization
- Accept the enclosed tax-deductible contribution

Name: _____

Address: _____

Mail to: Area 30 Special Olympics, 4116 Arbor Drive, Midland, MI 48640
or Contact: Lisa Schwager, Area Director (989)329-0850 / area30@somi.org