



Special Olympics
Michigan

Special Olympics Michigan

Area 21 – Oceana, Newaygo and Muskegon Counties

Special Olympics Michigan Facts

20,679 athletes

23 sports offered

8 state-level competitions, statewide regional basketball tournaments and 447 area-level competitions

Training and competitions are year-round

20,000 volunteers

Program provided at no cost to athletes or their families

Budget funded entirely by private donations

Area 21 Facts

180 athletes

85 volunteers

Area 21 offers the following sports programs:

Alpine Skiing
Aquatics
Athletics (Track & Field)
Basketball
Bowling
Motor Activities
Training Program (MATP)
Poly Hockey
Snowboarding
Snowshoe
Soccer
Softball
Volleyball

OUR MISSION

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 friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

OUR GOAL

To help persons with intellectual disabilities participate as productive and respected members of society at large, by offering them a fair opportunity to develop and demonstrate their skills and talents through sports training and competition, and by increasing the public's awareness of their capabilities and needs.

THE BENEFITS

Athletes who participate in Special Olympics improve physical fitness and motor skills, develop self-esteem and confidence, make friends and increase family support. Special Olympics athletes carry these benefits with them into their daily lives at home, in the classroom and on the job. Families become stronger as they learn a greater appreciation of their athlete's abilities and community volunteers find out what a good friend athletes can be.

FUNDING

Special Olympics Michigan is a non-profit organization supported almost entirely by private funding and without the support of state funds. Generosity of organizations, individuals, and businesses enable the program to continue, which was a \$6.2 million effort in 2010. Area 21 has an annual budget of \$35,000 that funds year-round programs for the athletes.

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

Special Olympic programs are offered in all 83 counties in Michigan. Area 21 encompasses all of Oceana, Newaygo and Muskegon Counties. Area 21 currently has an average of 180 athletes involved in the program.

VOLUNTEERS

More than 20,000 volunteers contribute their time, energy and expertise to make the Special Olympics program a reality in Michigan. Area 21 relies on the dedicated support of more than 85 volunteers who offer their time and talents in a number of ways, including coaching, chaperoning athletes at events, assisting with fund raising, and helping run local events and games.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Special Olympics Michigan training and competition is open to every person with intellectual disabilities who registers to participate in Special Olympics as required by the Special Olympics General Rules.

AREA 21 MANAGEMENT TEAM

Rosemary VanderVegte, Area Director
Dale Shanon, Accounting
Rosemary VanderVegte, Funds Development
Jim Brown, Medical
Nicole Alan, Public Relations
Sally Snyder, Outreach
Bev Devries, Coach Representative
Rosemary VanderVegte, Volunteer Rep.
Bev Devries, Training Representative
Carol Hills, Parent Representative

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