



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**STATE FALL GAMES RETURN TO SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN**

**September 29 – October 1 in Ann Arbor, Canton, Chelsea and Ypsilanti**

**(Ann Arbor, Mich.)** – Nearly 1,700 Special Olympics Michigan athletes will make their way to southeast Michigan from **September 29 to October 1** for the fourth annual **Special Olympics Michigan State Fall games presented by Real Estate One**.

Athletes from across the state will showcase their skills in flag football, soccer, cycling, softball, golf and kayaking. 941 of the 1,686 athletes hail from Southeast Michigan (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw, Livingston and Monroe Counties) with athletes attending the Games from as far North as Houghton and the Keweenaw Counties.

Flag football and cycling will be held at Chrysler Proving Grounds in Chelsea. Golf will take place at Eagle Crest Golf Course in Ypsilanti while Kayaking is held at the Eastern Michigan University boathouse. Soccer will be at Independence Park in Canton and softball will be held at Canton Softball Complex.

In addition to the athletic competition, there will also be a Young Athletes™ Festival on Friday, September 29 from 10 a.m. to Noon at the Ann Arbor Sheraton. During the festival, children ages two and a half to seven will enjoy games and activities that develop motor skills and hand-eye coordination. This program is an early introduction to sports and the world of Special Olympics for the children and their families.

The Healthy Athletes® Village also takes place at the Ann Arbor Sheraton on Friday, September 29, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. where athletes can receive free health screenings. The Opening Ceremony follows from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and will be emceed by WXYZ's Ann Marie LaFlamme. A general schedule can be found below. For more information about the State Fall Games or Special Olympics Michigan, please visit SOMI.org.





### Media Information

Special Olympics Michigan athletes, volunteers and coaches will be available for interviews and photographs during all competitions. Upon arrival at Chrysler Group's Chelsea Proving Grounds, a shuttle will take media members and spectators to the competition site. The use of still and video cameras is prohibited during the shuttle ride but is allowed during all competitions. The shuttle ride is approximately five minutes long and will run for the duration of the day. Please contact Aaron Mills at (231) 620-7488 with any questions the day of the competition.

**High definition video b-roll of Saturday's competitions will be available for download in time for your late local news. Look for an email on Saturday evening with download details.**

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (Subject to Change)

Friday, September 29

- 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.:** Young Athletes™ Festival – Sheraton, Michigan I
- 2:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.:** Nerve Center/Medical – Sheraton, Petit I & II
- 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.:** Healthy Athletes® Village – Sheraton, Grande III
- 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.:** Souvenirs – Sheraton, Event Entrance
- 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.:** Athlete Health & Wellness Expo – Sheraton, Event Entrance
- 4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.:** Dinner – Sheraton, Grande I & II
- 5:30 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.:** Partner Reception – Sheraton, Garden Room
- 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.:** Opening Ceremony & Dance– Sheraton, Michigan

Saturday, September 30

- 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.:** Breakfast for overnight guests - Sheraton, Grande I & II
- 7:45 a.m.:** Cycling registration begins – Chrysler Proving Grounds (Chelsea)
- 8:00 a.m.:** Golf registration begins – Eagle Crest Golf Course (Ypsilanti)
- 8:00 a.m.:** Softball registration begins – Canton Softball Complex (Canton)
- 9:00 a.m.:** Flag Football registration begins – Chrysler Proving Grounds (Chelsea)
- 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.:** Cycling competition - Chrysler Proving Grounds (Chelsea)
- 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.:** Softball competition at Canton Softball Center (Canton)
- 9:00 a.m.:** Unified Golf competition - Eagle Crest Golf Course (Ypsilanti)
- 9:30 a.m.:** Golf Skills competition - Eagle Crest Golf Course (Ypsilanti)
- 10:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.:** FUNfitness at Canton Softball Center (Canton)
- 10:30 a.m.:** Softball Skills competition at Canton Softball Center (Canton)
- 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.:** Flag Football competition – Chrysler Proving Grounds (Chelsea)
- Noon:** 9-hole Golf competition - Eagle Crest Golf Course (Ypsilanti)





**3:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.:** Nerve Center/Medical – Sheraton, Petit I & II  
**4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.:** Dinner – Sheraton, Grande I & II  
**6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.:** Souvenirs – Sheraton, Event Entrance  
**7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.:** Closing Ceremony & Dance– Sheraton, Michigan

Sunday, October 1

**7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.:** Breakfast for overnight guests - Sheraton, Grande I & II  
**7:00 a.m. - Noon:** Nerve Center – Sheraton, Petit I & II  
**9:00 a.m.:** Kayak registration at EMU Boathouse (Ypsilanti)  
**9:00 a.m.:** Soccer registration at Independence Park (Canton)  
**10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.:** Soccer competition at Independence Park (Canton)  
**10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.:** Kayak competition at EMU Boathouse (Ypsilanti)  
**11:30 a.m.:** Soccer Skills competition at Independence Park (Canton)  
**10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.:** Special Events at Independence Park (Canton)  
**Noon:** Unified Soccer Experience at Independence Park (Canton)

## **PARTNERS**

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About Special Olympics Michigan

Special Olympics Michigan Inc. (SOMI) provides year-round sports training and athletic competition for 23,033 children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Athletes build physical fitness, develop self-confidence and prepare for participation in society.

SOMI is a non-profit organization supported almost entirely by corporate and individual gifts, and events. The generosity of Michigan organizations, individuals and statewide businesses enable the program to continue.

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