



Special Olympics West Virginia

The mission of Special Olympics West Virginia is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-style sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities – giving them opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, and experience joy.

Special Olympics West Virginia has been changing lives through the power of sport for more than 50 years. Founded in the summer of 1968 with a single statewide event in Parkersburg that attracted approximately 100 athletes to compete in a few track & field events. Today, more than 4,000 athletes throughout the state compete in multiple sports.

Special Olympics West Virginia 2019 Stats:

4,400 Athletes

35 Participating Counties

18 Sports

47 Annual Local Competitions

5 Annual Statewide Competitions

1 National Games (Every 4 Years)

1 World Games (Every 2 Years)

Spring Sports: Basketball, Basketball Skills, and Cheerleading

Summer Sports: Athletics (Track & Field), Baggo, Bocce, Golf, Softball, Swimming, and Tennis

Fall Sports: Bowling, Flag Football, Football Skills, and Volleyball

Winter Sports: Alpine (Downhill) Skiing, Cross-Country Skiing, Snowboarding, and Snowshoeing

We believe that quality training is crucial to success in sports. Our athletes must train under the direction of volunteer coaches a minimum of eight weeks prior to a competition. Therefore, training programs to improve athletes' overall fitness and sports-specific competence have been developed, tested and implemented for each sport. In addition, Special Olympics West Virginia offers training schools for coaches, officials and event directors to instruct them in the most effective techniques of working with Special Olympic athletes.

Special Olympics is the world's largest sports organization. All Special Olympics Programs are offered at no cost to the athletes and their families.

Contact

Special Olympics West Virginia

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What It Means to the Participants

"Special Olympics West Virginia makes me have more belief in myself. Make me feel like I am not a failure. Like I can do anything. Learned that you can't lose if you do your best. I don't have to win to be happy. I just have to try. It makes me feel proud."

Web Info

Website: www.sowv.org

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Special-Olympics-West-Virginia/>

Twitter: www.twitter.com/sowv