

WHAT IS SPECIAL OLYMPICS?

Special Olympics is an international organization dedicated to empowering individuals with mental retardation, 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 mental retardation 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 mental retardation, 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.



WHAT SPORTS DO WE OFFER?

Area 3 offers training in nine different sports scheduled throughout the year. Interested athletes and volunteers should contact 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	November-January
Bowling	November-February
Skiing	November-January

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



