

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

11/3/2023

**Special
Olympics
Maryland**



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Welcome

If there are any members of your area’s leadership who are not currently receiving the Area Memo, [please fill out this form](#)

Shout out a volunteer

This memo’s shout outs go to...

Lynn Bostic, Laurie Brewer, and the Carroll Team on a great BINGO last week!

Coach Nick and Coach Kim from Prince George’s County for organizing their team for the University of Maryland Women’s Basketball Game last weekend!

Please use the link below to submit your shout outs!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LV88QG9>

(NEW) FYI-Virtual Turkey Trot (SOI Event)- SOMD is NOT participating

Over the next few weeks, you may see Special Olympics International and/or other Special Olympics State Programs promoting a Virtual Turkey Trot for Special Olympics. This was presented to state programs as an optional peer to peer fundraising opportunity.

This is a key time for St. Mary’s Splash, Polar Bear Plunge, and Year-End Giving, and Deep Creek Dunk activity (and many other Area Program Fundraisers), so Special Olympics Maryland will **NOT** be participating in this.

To avoid causing confusion, we would ask that you and your programs not share/promote this virtual event. Rather, we encourage you to set up your Area Program Teams for Splash, Plunge, and Dunk to benefit from these great collaborative fundraising opportunities!

If you need assistance setting up your team’s pages, email Jeff!

St. Mary’s Splash	12/2/2023	www.stmaryssplash.com
Polar Bear Plunge	2/1-3/2024	www.plungemd.com
Deep Creek Dunk	2/24/2024	https://support.somd.org/event/2024-deep-creek-dunk/e510388

(NEW) Program Staff Thanksgiving Leave

As we come up on the Holiday Season, we like to communicate when program staff members will be off/unavailable. Below is the list of time off for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Should you need something while a staff member is away, Jeff will help as much as he can, so give him a call!

	Person on leave this day (i.e., not available)					
	Person working on this date (i.e., available)					
	SOMD HQ offices closed on this date (i.e., not available)					
Staff Member	11/20	11/21	11/22	11/23	11/24	11/27
Jeff Abel						
Melissa Anger						
Abi Bauman						
Steve Bennett						
Sam Boyd						
Zach Cintron						
Casey Collins						
Mike Czarnowsky						
Mackenzie Irvin						
Ryan Kelchner						
Melissa Kelly						
Elizabeth Kramer						
Julie Martin						
Kyler Mellott						
Mike Myers						
Jake Novick						
Dottie Rush						
Jason Schriml						
Kayla Shields						

(NEW) Reminder- Nov. Area Director Webinar and Meeting

Please take a minute to RSVP to our Nov. Area Director Webinar (11/6) and Meeting (11/11).

<https://forms.monday.com/forms/67da4045e6d17c6402e56bacc8aeda68?r=use1>

Once complete, you will get an email confirmation and will be redirected to the webinar registration link (note: this is the same as our monthly call link).

(NEW) Coaching Special Olympics Athletes (CSOA) – New Process For Accessing Online Course

CSOA is the core baseline course required for virtually all Special Olympics coaches. A coach is only required to complete this specific course one time, however coaches must renew their Coach Sport Certifications at least every three years through completion of other coach education and development options.

Human Kinetics, a premiere provider of coach education resources, is retiring this course from its online catalogue over the next 12 months and, as such, it no longer appears on its public website. However, SOMD has arranged to pre-purchase "licenses" for this online course that can be completed between now and October 31, 2024. **Coaches needing to complete CSOA should send an email to coaches@somd.org to request a license and directions on completing the course.**

Additional Notes:

- This new arrangement means that *coaches no longer need to pre-pay for the course and then request a reimbursement from SOMD.*
- Coaches should expect that obtaining a license may take up to 2 business days from the time of request.
- Given the large but limited number of pre-paid licenses, and the inability for SOMD to obtain more from HK, licenses will be provided only to those prospective coaches who have not already completed CSOA and only one license will be issued per person.
- Special Olympics North America anticipates having a new online version of CSOA hosted on the SO Learn portal available at some point during the third quarter of 2024.
- We are undergoing a full review of the HK offerings of other online coach education and will be posting an updated list of accepted courses, as well as some additional online sport-specific offerings, by the end of November, 2023.

(NEW) GMS Training Registration for 2024 Now Open To Areas

As many Area programs are starting to register participants in their winter season training programs (Alpine Skiing, Snowshoeing, Basketball, etc.), we are pleased to let you know that the “2024 Community Training Program Participant Registration” games is now open. **You should be using that “games” to register any athletes, coaches, unified teammates, volunteers, etc. for any of your training programs that will either continue into 2023 or will start in 2023.** Any training that will be solely conducted in 2023 should continue to be added in the “2023 Community Training Program Participant Registration” games.

Play Unified at Towson University- Flag Football

Congratulations to our Athletes who wrapped up their Unified Soccer Intramural season this past Wednesday! We are looking forward to an exciting season of Unified Flag Football with Towson starting THIS WEDNESDAY!

Join Towson students and Special Olympics Maryland athletes for a Unified Recreation Flag Football league this fall. All games will take place at Burdick Field at Towson University from on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:00pm on the following dates! 10/25/2023

- 11/1/2023
- 11/8/2023
- 11/15/2023
- 11/29/2023
- 12/6/2023

Use this [link](#) to register!

Area Program Sport & Activity Information Form

To more effectively capture the many programs and activities taking place in the community, we have put together a Training Program Information Form.

This form will help our state office stay more organized with up-to-date information on what programs are happening, where they’re happening, and when they are happening.

Please submit 1 form for each sport/activity from your program using the link below:

<https://wkf.ms/3Kqg0Zp>

To avoid duplicate submissions, Coaches, Sport Volunteers, and Sport Coordinators, please work with your Area Leadership on submitting this form as they may have done so already.

We ask that this is submitted by the registration deadline during each sport season.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Abel (jabel@somd.org).

Area Program Fundraiser Info Form

As we discussed in our Area Director meeting and on Monday's call, we'd like to get a better idea of the many fundraisers taking place around the state in support of Special Olympics Maryland. This will also help us advertise your events while also consolidating state office requests for credit card machines, Classy Pages, and more.

[Moving forward, please fill out this form when you are planning a fundraiser.](#)

Donation Information Corner

1. **Area Donation Tracking Link:** please use this link to provide information to SOMD about any anticipated gifts that may come directly to the SOMD office or bank account:

[Area Donation Tracking Report](#)

2. **Private Donation Link for Honor/Memorial Donations and specific gifts from donors:** If you have an individual donor or sponsor that has reached out to you and wants to make a donation to support your program directly, or if you would like to include a link for memorial donations, you can provide this PRIVATE donation link, but please remember, **this link cannot be included on your local area website or sent out as an email blast.** Please encourage donors to fill out the "Direct My Gift to" dropdown in the form.

[Private Giving Link Request](#)

3. **Stock Giving Option:** please provide the information below to anyone who would like to make a gift of stock to your local area program. You can also notify SOMD that a gift is coming to support your program by adding this information to the [Area Donation Tracking Report](#).

To make a gift of stock, please share this information with your financial advisor:

**Morgan Stanley LLC
DTC #0015**

For the benefit of Special Olympics Maryland/633-117478

**c/o: Morgan Stanley
650 S. Exeter Street, Suite 1100
Baltimore, MD 21202**

4. **Matching Gifts:** Many companies generously offer to match their employees' charitable contributions. Some even provide matching funds to support employee volunteer hours. Most of these programs match contributions dollar for dollar, and some will even double or triple the amount of your gift!

[Click Here](#) to enter your employer's name to see if they participate in the matching gift program, and if they do, get a link to the matching donation page.

If you are aware of any matching gifts that may be coming in for your local area program, please notify SOMD that a gift is coming to support your program by adding this information to the [Area Donation Tracking Report](#)

(UPDATED) Pre-Season and Pre-Competition Webinars

The dates and time for Pre-Season webinars have been set for the upcoming seasons. Please share this info with your coaches and sports volunteers.

Pre-Season Coaches Webinars (slides from recorded sessions are available on the respective CRP)

Sport	Date/Time	Registration / Recording Link
Bowling	Thu, 09/07	Recording: https://youtu.be/TfyGQhftCk
Alpine Skiing	Tue, 11/14 6:00-7:00pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpd-CqrjovGdNvj1PXI8B8dVcZ1WjoWWTa
Snowshoeing	Wed, 11/15 6:00-7:00pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMud-6srzgoG9cOyGBnyolz9amE8EsaM4t9
Basketball	Thu, 11/16 6:00-7:30pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwoc-qhqDkqH9bYrgiYp67oZmXaWQy6BXu0

Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars (slides from recorded sessions are available on the respective CRP)

Sport	Date/Time	Registration / Recording Link
Bowling - Regionals	Thu, 11/02	Recording: https://youtu.be/DIK0YtqzCS0
Bowling - Finals	Tue, 11/28 6:00-7:00pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAsdeytrispHtBoFx18GPTcbB5OPlyqTlCn
Alpine Skiing	Thu, 02/15 6:00-7:00pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pdO2sqjMvHdH5izDtkgjUblI5Rf2_GTu5
Snowshoeing	TBD	TBD
Basketball (5v5 Trad & Unif)	Wed, 03/27 6:00-7:00pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcscO2grTluHNYHb4aDijQFTOVhOn6UbfR0
Basketball (ISC, all 3v3, 5v5PDU)	Wed, 03/27 7:00-8:00pm	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlscO2rpzljGtRkJdl3X4zqneBx-ccYB0No

(UPDATED) Sports Department Contacts – Assigned Sports

Your Area Director and Area Leadership should always be your first point of contact. However, should you have questions regarding a specific sport, coach education, or competition, please work with the corresponding Sport Director.

- **Melissa Anger, Senior Sports Director**
 - manger@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x122
 - Basketball
 - Cheerleading
 - Flag Football
 - Soccer
 - Softball
 - Tennis

Locally Popular Sports: Volleyball, Cross Country Skiing, Pickleball
- **Casey Collins, Sports Director**
 - ccollins@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x171
 - Athletics
 - Bocce
 - Distance Running
 - Golf
 - Powerlifting
 - Snowshoeing

Locally Popular Sports: Dance, Equestrian Sports, Floor Hockey
- **Elizabeth Kramer, Sports Director**
 - ekramer@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x127
 - Alpine Skiing
 - Bowling (10 pin)
 - Cycling
 - Kayaking
 - Swimming

Locally Popular Sports: Figure Skating, Sailing, Short Track Speed Skating, Duckpin Bowling

- **Sue Snyder, Unified® Physical Education Consultant**
 - ssnyder@somd.org
 - Unified® Physical Education
- **Sam Boyd, Volunteer Director**
 - sboyd@somd.org, 443-766-9245
 - Volunteer Recruitment, Retention, Training
- **Mike Myers, Sr. Director, Area Programs**
 - mmyers@somd.org, 443-799-5335
 - All Area Programs- Primary POC for BA, HO, MO, AA, SM, CH, CL
- **VACANT, Region Director- Metro Programs**
 - mmyers@somd.org
 - Baltimore City, Prince George's County
- **Allie Boyd, City Schools Coordinator**
 - aboyd@somd.org, 223-848-1210
 - Baltimore City Schools APE Sports Program
- **Kyler Mellott, Region Director- East**
 - kmellott@somd.org, 814-470-9474
 - Harford, Cecil, Kent, Upper Shore, Lower Shore
- **VACANT, Region Director- West**
 - mmyers@somd.org
 - Carroll, Frederick, Washington Allegany, Garrett