

Special Olympics Wisconsin

Special Olympics Wisconsin (SOWI) is a statewide organization providing persons with cognitive disabilities year-round sports training and competition. Individuals who are at least eight years old and are identified as having a cognitive disability are eligible for participation.

Mission

To provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with cognitive disabilities, 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.

Benefits of Special Olympics

Participation in sports brings significant benefits to people with cognitive disabilities of all ages and abilities. The following also reflects benefits of sports for everyone:

Physical: Physical fitness, increased coordination, cardiovascular fitness and endurance.

Mental: Knowledge of rules and strategy, along with increased self-esteem, self-confidence, and pride.

Social: Teamwork, interaction with peers and people without cognitive disabilities, opportunity to travel and learn about other places and interests, family pride, and increased community awareness and acceptance.

The results for the athlete include: Richer, more rewarding life skills and confidence applied to school, work, home and social life.

Madison Youth Special Olympics

West Madison Youth Special Olympics

Agency 6-20

www.wmyso.org

There are five sports seasons for Special Olympics Wisconsin. Sports offered by Agency 6-20 include:

Winter Games season

- Snowshoe Racing

Indoor Sports Tournament season

- Basketball
- Gymnastics

Summer Games season

- Athletics (track & field)
- Soccer

Outdoor Sports Tournament season

- Bocce
- Softball

Fall Sports Tournament season

- Bowling

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible to participate as a registered SOWI athlete, a person must meet the following criteria:

- An athlete must be eight years of age by the medical deadline date in order for SOWI to process the medical forms and for the athlete to compete in that sport season.
- Be identified by an agency or professional as having a cognitive disability; or a cognitive delay as determined by standardized measures such as intelligence quotient (IQ) or other generally acceptable measures; or
- A closely related developmental disability. A "closely related developmental disability" means having functional limitations in both general learning and adaptive skills such as recreation, work, independent living, self direction or self care. However, persons whose functional limitations are based solely on a physical, behavioral, or emotional disability, or a specific learning or sensory disability are not eligible to participate as Special Olympic athletes, but may be eligible to volunteer for SOWI.

- Agree to abide by the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules and the SOWI Athlete Code of Conduct.
- Complete an Application for Participation (medical form) and a release form and register under one of over 200 SOWI accredited agencies.

For more information about Special Olympics Wisconsin, visit:
www.specialolympicswisconsin.org

Volunteers...The Heartbeat of Special Olympics

Special Olympics Wisconsin serves nearly 10,000 athletes annually. To give these individuals the opportunities they enjoy, we need your help.

Every volunteer is a potential spokesperson for Special Olympics Wisconsin. Our success is driven by the dedication of our volunteer Management Teams, Agency Managers, Coaches and thousands of event volunteers.

Want to live a longer, more satisfying life? According to a recent issue of the *Mayo Clinic Health Letter*, studies show adults involved in their communities live longer than their peers who don't volunteer. Getting involved with Special Olympics Wisconsin might just be your ticket to a healthier, happier and longer life!

Becoming a SOWI volunteer is a great way to give back to the community -- but be realistic about how much time you can give. You can offer your services for an extended time period, such as coaching your favorite sport. If your time is limited, try a short-term project or event, such as a day long or weekend competition, a fund-raising event, or helping in your local office with clerical tasks. SOWI events take place year-round and all over Wisconsin, so don't hesitate to get involved!



Special Olympics
Wisconsin

Be a fan™

Support. Volunteer. Compete.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Special Olympics Wisconsin is made possible because of the efforts of many volunteers, coaches, athletes' families and the athletes themselves. In addition, more than 9,000 individual and corporate donors make Special Olympics Wisconsin come to life every year.

When Eunice Kennedy Shriver organized the first Special Olympics Games in 1968, her goal was to enhance the lives of people with cognitive disabilities through participation in competitive sports. It is the generous support of our individual and corporate donors that give our athletes those opportunities.

West Madison Youth Special Olympics would like to thank the following sponsors for their support:

**Dental Health Associates
of Madison**

DAAR Engineering

To find out more about West Madison Youth Special Olympics Agency 6-20, visit www.wmyso.org From here you can subscribe to eNews AND sign up to WMYSO.

**West Madison Youth
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**West Madison
Youth
Special Olympics**

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