

Eunice Kennedy Shriver

led a revolution of sport and competition that forever changed the way Americans view people with intellectual disabilities, and the way that many of our athletes view themselves. It was America's most joyful civil rights movement - a revolution of play – Michael Gerson



Special Olympics

Wyoming

Be a fan.

Special Olympics Wyoming is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, providing year-round opportunities for sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Currently over 1,100 athletes and thousands of volunteers, family members and friends take part in the activities of Special Olympics Wyoming.

Past The concept of Special Olympics began in the early 1960's when Eunice Kennedy Shriver started a day camp for persons with intellectual disabilities. From that experience, it was clear that people with intellectual disabilities were far more capable in sports and physical activities than many experts believed.

In 1968, Mrs. Shriver organized the first International Special Olympics games at Soldier's Field in Chicago Illinois.

In 1972 the first games were held in Wyoming under the direction and leadership of Helen and Lloyd Wampler. 210 athletes competed at Natrona County High School in athletics (track & field) events and aquatics. Gymnastics clinics were also held. Today five state-wide events are conducted annually.

Every Person Counts More than 1,500 coordinators, coaches, games volunteers, fundraising volunteers and committee members ensure the success of Special Olympics Wyoming.

Cost Special Olympics Wyoming is funded by individuals, small businesses and corporations throughout Wyoming. Along with support from foundations, service organizations and special fundraising events including: ~Festival of Trees, Casper ~ Law Enforcement Torch Run ~ Jackalope Jump, in multiple locations ~ World's Largest Truck Convoy. Special Olympics Wyoming is **not** a United Way Agency.

Infrasturcture Special Olympics Wyoming is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors who represents the state demographically, geographically and professionally. They oversee the activities of a small professional staff who manage the statewide efforts of thousands of volunteers. Wyoming is split into five geographical areas. The goals of each area are to bring more athletes into the program and to provide more local opportunities for sports training and competition.

Around the World There are Special Olympics programs in 170 countries, all 50 US States and the District of Columbia serving 3,431,500 athletes. Over 15,000 games, meets and tournaments in summer and winter sports are held each year worldwide. State programs hold games annually; National programs hold Games annually or bi-annually. State and National Games culminate in World Games every two years, alternating between winter and summer sports.

Looking to get **GET INVOLVED?** Volunteer at an athletic event • Participate in a fundraising event • Serve on a committee • Coach

For more information

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www.specialolympicswy.org

www.facebook.com/SpecialOlympicsWyoming

Mission

The mission of Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual 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.

**“LET ME WIN!”
“BUT IF I CANNOT WIN,
LET ME BE BRAVE IN THE
ATTEMPT!”**

Athletes
More than 1,100 children and adults with intellectual disabilities currently participate through forty local programs in Wyoming.

Trainning
Athlete training is essential including competitive experiences at the local and area competition leading up to State level events. Athletes typically participate in an 8-10 week sports training program. Additional opportunities for general strength and fitness are often included.

The better the coach ... the better the experiences ... the better the athlete! Special Olympics Wyoming focuses on providing quality trainings to volunteers that are meaningful and informative that ultimately our athletes can benefit from. Well trained volunteer coaches will assure our athletes are prepared for competition.

Healthy Athletes



This program was developed in 1996 to improve athletes' ability to train and compete in Special Olympics. Healthy Athletes is designed to help Special Olympics athletes improve their health and fitness, leading to enhanced sports experience and improved well-being.

Leadership Programs
“ALPs” assist athletes to develop skills that compliment the health benefits of participation. ALPs programming trains athletes to serve in meaningful leadership roles in addition to “competitor”. Over the years we have been inspired by athletes on the playing fields. Now through ALPs they are serving as: members of Boards of Directors, committee members, spokespersons, coaches and officials.

Events
Special Olympics Wyoming offers year-round training and competition in 16 sports at five state-wide events. In addition athletes compete at regional and local competition leading up to state level events.

Togetherness
By involving such a diverse range of individuals and groups, Special Olympics paves the way for other community-based development – education, health, nutrition and more. Special Olympics Programs are a catalytic force for communities, promoting volunteerism, civic engagement and inclusion of people who are different in areas where these values are uncommon. This power to connect people and promote acceptance of difference is a precondition for security and peace, from Cheyenne to Shanghai.

Eligibility
Athletes must be 8 years of age or older (there is no upper age limit) and identified as having an intellectual disability or a closely related developmental disability. They do not need to be knowledgeable about sports or have prior athletic experience.

Winter Games
Alpine Skiing
Cross Country Skiing
Snow Shoeing
Snowboarding

MATP

Summer Games
Aquatics (Swimming)
Track & Field
Basketball
Gymnastics
Power Lifting

Unified Sports Golf

**G. Michael Perry
Memorial Softball
Tournament**

Fall Tournament

Bowling
Cycling
Equestrian
Soccer

Special Projects and Programs

Unified Sports® is a program that organizes teams of athletes with and without intellectual disabilities to compete in a variety of sports. Primary objectives are to offer sports opportunities for all individuals interested, regardless of ability, to build friendships and develop teamwork. Special Olympics Wyoming provides Unified Sports competition in eleven different sports.

The Special Olympics National Youth Activation Program - **Project UNIFY** - seeks to actively engage youth with and without disabilities in the Special Olympics movement. The purpose of Project UNIFY is to build communities of acceptance and inclusion through the engagement of young people both with and without intellectual disabilities not only in their schools but also at local, state, national levels.

