

Special Olympics Maryland - Be A Fan!



- Special Olympics started in the early 1960s when Eunice Kennedy Shriver started a day camp for people with disabilities at her home in Rockville, Maryland. Yes, that's right, Special Olympics started right here in our own backyard!
- Special Olympics Maryland (SOMD) is a statewide year-round sports program for Maryland's children and adults with intellectual disabilities and/or closely related developmental disabilities.
- These disabilities typically include all individuals with intellectual disabilities, combination of deaf-blindness, autism, traumatic head injury, and most individuals with cerebral palsy and specific learning disabilities.
- We currently offer nearly 30 sports at the state level for thousands of athletes, many of whom participate on a year-round basis.
- Throughout Maryland, there are about 150,000 persons with intellectual disabilities who can benefit from our sports activities, yet only 10,000 are enrolled in our programs.
- There are training and competition opportunities every day throughout the year, and all of our programs are free to eligible athletes and come at no cost to their families.
- The average cost to support one athlete, for one sport is \$500.00 and many of our athletes choose to participate in multiple sports.
- In addition to our core sport programs we offer:
 - Motor Activities Training Program (MATP) - Developed for athletes with the most severe disabilities, MATP emphasizes training and participation rather than competition.
 - Young Athletes – An innovative sports play program for children with intellectual disabilities ages 2-7 that serves as a way to introduce these children into the world of sports.
 - Unified Sports – A team experience that combines an equal number of athletes with and without disabilities of similar age and abilities to play on the same team. This program facilitates inclusion of Special Olympics athletes throughout the community.

WHY WE FIT:

- **Over 2,000 students from your schools participated in the PBP! Why not you?**
- **SOMD athletes represent every county in the state**
- **SOMD athletes are students at all of your schools**
- **SOMD has a partnership with police officers in your schools (School Resource Officers)**

www.somd.org