



INCORPORATED: 1970

MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of Special Olympics Arkansas is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic type sports for all children and adults with intellectual disabilities giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills, and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community.

VISION: The Vision of Special Olympics Arkansas is to transform communities by changing lives through sports.

ATHLETE OATH: "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

PARTICIPANTS: 19,500 Registered Athletes (8yrs and up), 4,400 Unified Partners and 25,000 Unified Young Athletes and Unified Young Partners (2-7yrs).

VOLUNTEERS: Over 16,000 include Class A volunteers, Board Members, LETR, day of event, Coaches, etc. To volunteer please visit our website at specialolympicsarkansas.org and click on GET INVOLVED

SPORTS OFFERED: 15 different Sports and 245 competitions throughout the state

COST TO PARTICIPATE: *FREE* of charge for all registered athletes including food, lodging, uniforms & training

LOCAL PROGRAM: Programs offered in 17 areas all counties participating

EMPLOYED ATHLETES: 52% of Special Olympics athletes are employed, while only 10% of people with Intellectual disabilities who do not participate in Special Olympics are employed.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS IMPACT ON ATHLETE

Gain Self Confidence

Have more opportunities to socialize with non-disabled peers

Know what it is like to be part of a social network

Most athletes compete for 10 plus years

SO Athletes are 5 times more likely to hold a job or be gainfully employed than their peers who do not participate

IN ADDITION TO SPORTS:

Athlete Leadership Program: Athletes as coaches, officials, team captains, spokespeople, board and committee members.

Special Olympics Health: Special Olympics' vision of its health program, made possible by the Golisano Foundation, is to create a world where people with intellectual disabilities have the same opportunities and access to health care as people without intellectual disabilities. Through this multi-layered effort, Special Olympics is working to create a tipping point where health becomes inclusive for people with intellectual disabilities globally by changing curriculum, training health care professionals and policymakers, influencing policy, advocating for inclusive health programming, building partnerships for follow up care and harnessing the power of the Special Olympics Movement to build awareness.



Unified Sports®: Inclusive sports.

Young Athletes Program™: Motor skill building for 2 to 7 year olds.

Unified Champion Schools: education-based project that uses sports and education programs to activate young people

Our Impact: It is through advancing sports excellence for all, building communities, transformative education, and Athlete Health that we are challenging mindsets and smashing stereotypes; thus leaving not only a positive impact but changing attitudes in Arkansas for life.

Discover more on our website www.Specialolympicsarkansas.org or read our [annual report!](#)