



Fast Facts

- Special Olympics Florida serves more than 38,500 athletes state-wide.
- Special Olympics Florida athletes are trained, supported, and encouraged by more than 27,000 volunteers statewide.
- Special Olympics Florida athletes are given opportunities to participate without regard to economic, demographic, religious, or social factors.
- Neither athletes nor parents/caregivers are charged a fee to participate in the program, and activities exist for all ability levels, from severely challenged to elite athlete.
- Special Olympics Florida offers sports training and competition with more than 400 events throughout the year.
- Special Olympics Florida, an accredited program of Special Olympics Inc., was founded in 1972 and is one of the largest volunteer-driven athletic organizations in the state.
- Special Olympics Florida offers 23 individual and team sports.
- \$0.88 of each dollar raised for Special Olympics Florida goes to program costs and services.
- Special Olympics offers sports training and competition opportunities from ages 2 and up – with no age limitation.
- Athletes who participate in Special Olympics are 100% more likely to be employed.
- In 2016, Special Olympics Florida provided 8,461 health exams to athletes, a value of more than \$2 million.
- Special Olympics Florida has more than 18,000 participants registered in Unified Sports – athletes with and without intellectual disabilities playing together on the same team.



Programs

- Special Olympics **Unified Champion Schools** is an education-based project that uses inclusive sports, youth leadership and whole-school engagement to develop school communities where all youth – with and without intellectual disabilities -- work together toward greater respect and dignity for people with intellectual disabilities.
- The **Young Athletes** is an innovative sports play program for children ages 2-7 with intellectual disabilities (ID) and developmental disabilities (DD) and their peers, designed to introduce them into the world of sports. Children in the Young Athletes program develop cognitive and motor skills at 3 times the rate of non-participants.
- Special Olympics **Athlete Leadership** allows athletes to explore opportunities in roles previously considered “non-traditional,” such as serving on the Board of Directors or local organizing committees or becoming a spokesperson, captain, coach or official.
- The mission of **Special Olympics Health** is to improve our athletes overall health and fitness, leading to enhanced sports experiences and improves well-being through health exams and educational classes.
- The Special Olympics **Motor Activity Training Program** is designed for athletes with severe or profound disabilities and seeks to improve the athlete’s basic motor skills in the following areas: dexterity, striking, kicking, manual wheelchair, electric wheelchair and swimming.