



## Why should I Join?

"[The athletes] bring out the best in me and that's why I love coaching. They change your life so quickly."

-Katie Mangin, SOWI Coach, Milwaukee

"Special Olympics makes the lives of people with special needs a better place. It has provided me with more structure and a chance to excel in sports."

-Peter Chumas, SOWI Athlete, Eau Claire

"The family time we've spent together at Special Olympics events is wonderful. The medals our son wins are an extra bonus and [the health programs] are the icing on the cake!"

-The Gainey Family, Menomonie

SOWI consists of seven Regional offices statewide, organizing and funding sports training and competitions in 180 communities.

### Headquarters Office

2310 Crossroads Dr., Ste. 1000  
Madison, WI 53718  
(608) 222-1324  
(800) 552-1324 (toll-free)  
(608) 222-3578 (fax)

### North Central Region 2

2804 Rib Mountain Dr., Ste. C  
Wausau, WI 54401  
(715) 848-0550  
(877) 848-0550 (toll-free)  
(715) 848-0880 (fax)

### Indianhead Region 3

2023 Fairfax St.  
Eau Claire, WI 54701  
(715) 833-0833  
(800) 833-5851 (toll-free)  
(715) 833-0507 (fax)

### Fox Valley Region 4

W5361 County Rd. KK, Ste. D  
Appleton, WI 54915  
(920) 731-1614  
(800) 704-1614 (toll-free)  
(920) 731-3691 (fax)

### Northeastern Region 5

2140 Holmgren Way  
Green Bay, WI 54304  
(920) 497-2422  
(800) 707-2422 (toll-free)  
(920) 497-0126 (fax)

### South Central Region 6

575 D'Onofrio Dr., Ste. 102  
Madison, WI 53719  
(608) 828-2620  
(800) 679-6751 (toll-free)  
(608) 828-2621 (fax)

### Southeastern Region 7

6100 Washington Ave., Ste E1  
Racine, WI 53406  
(262) 598-9507  
(800) 924-4320 (toll-free)  
(262) 598-9509 (fax)

### Greater Milwaukee Region 8

10224 N. Port Washington Rd.  
Mequon, WI 53092  
(262) 241-7786  
(800) 924-5202 (toll-free)  
(262) 241-5334 (fax)

### SOWI Mission Partners



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facebook.com/SpecialOlympicsWisconsin

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# Join the Special Olympics Family

## What is Special Olympics?

When parents learn their newborn or expected child has an intellectual disability (ID), their lives are changed in an instant. Their excited anticipation to welcome their child into the world is transformed into nervous anxiety. Questions like, "What brand of diapers should I buy?" suddenly become trivial as they start asking, "What does the future hold for my child?" and, "How will we cope?"

For many parents, Special Olympics Wisconsin (SOWI) delivers a ray of hope. Through programming in **sports, health, education** and **community building**, Special Olympics is changing the lives of people with ID, solving the injustice, isolation, intolerance and inactivity they face.

Families who network with others share similar experiences, discover medical information, and learn about community resources to help make their lives easier. In Special Olympics, families will discover a place of acceptance, empowerment and belonging.

A Yale University study found that Special Olympics athletes benefit from the following:

- Improved friendships and family relations.
- Improved physical fitness and sports skills.
- Enhanced self-confidence and social competency.
- Improved skills for employment.
- Increased ability to make personal decisions and live independently.

Through SOWI, nearly 10,000 athletes and their families are discovering the bright future that awaits them.



## Reveal, Achieve, Share

### Sports

Special Olympics uses sports as a catalyst to reveal the champion in all of us. SOWI offers year-round training and competition in 17-Olympic type sports. SOWI allows athletes to compete in one sport per season as listed below\*:

#### Winter Games

*(December-January)*

Alpine Skiing  
Cross-country Skiing  
Snowboarding  
Snowshoe Racing

#### Summer Games

*(March-June)*

Aquatics  
Athletics (Track & Field)  
Soccer  
Powerlifting

#### Indoor Sports Tournament

*(February-March)*

Basketball (Team & Skills)  
Gymnastics (Artistic & Rhythmic)

#### Outdoor Sports Tournament

*(June-August)*

Bocce  
Golf  
Softball/Tee Ball  
Tennis

#### Fall Sports Tournament

*(September-December)*

Bowling  
Volleyball  
Flag Football

\*Contact your Agency manager for a list of sports available through your local program.

### Health

Healthy Athletes® improves each athlete's ability to train and compete in Special Olympics through healthcare screenings, exams and education.

### Community

Athlete Leadership Programs (ALPs) increase athletes' confidence by teaching leadership skills, such as public speaking and governance.

Family members can recruit new athletes, coach teams, transport athletes, raise funds, officiate games, chaperone events and train other volunteers. SOWI brings families together so they can form one strong voice to advocate for the rights of individuals with ID.

### Education

Project UNIFY® uses Special Olympics' sports and education programs, including Spread the Word to End the Word® and Young Athletes™, to activate youth, engage educators and promote school communities of acceptance and inclusion.

## Who is Eligible?

Individuals must meet the following requirements\* to train or compete with SOWI:

- 1) Be at least 8 years of age.
- 2) Be identified by an agency or professional as having ID, a delay, or closely related developmental disability.
- 3) Agree to abide by the Special Olympics Sports Rules and SOWI Athlete Code of Conduct.

Persons with multiple disabilities may participate if they meet the noted criteria above.

\*See details of requirements on the SOWI website.

## How Much does it Cost?

While an Agency may ask for fundraising or financial assistance, there is no cost to any athlete to join SOWI. Special Olympics Wisconsin does not deny any athlete based on economic circumstances.

## How do I Join?

- 1) Contact the SOWI office at (800) 552-1324. They will direct you to a local program (Agency).
- 2) Obtain and complete the official SOWI Release Form and Application for Participation.
- 3) Return these forms to your local Agency manager who will send them to the SOWI Headquarters office and provide you with local training and competition information.

