



Special Olympics Baltimore County  
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<http://www.somdba.org>  
<http://www.inspirationwalk.org>

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### **MISSION**

Special Olympics is a world-wide program providing year-round sports training, education and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, age eight and older.

### **HISTORY**

The concept for Special Olympics was born in the early 1960s when Eunice Kennedy Shriver started a day camp for people with intellectual disabilities at her home in Rockville, Maryland. The first International Special Olympics Games were held in 1968 at Soldier's Field, Chicago with 1,000 athletes participating from 26 states and Canada. Special Olympics Baltimore County currently has over 200 athletes that participate in its programs.

### **PURPOSE**

Special Olympics Maryland Baltimore County (SOMDBA) provides an accepting, safe and healthy environment for all individuals with mental retardation. This program believes that through sports training and competition, people with mental retardation benefit physically, mentally, socially and spiritually. Families are strengthened. And the community, through participation and observation, is united in understanding these citizens in an environment of equality, respect and acceptance.

### **IMPACT**

- Special Olympics athletes connect with their local community.
- Special Olympics athletes derive considerable intrinsic pleasure from solving difficult problems.
- Special Olympics athletes gain friendships for life with volunteers, coaches and other athletes.
- Special Olympics athletes have better behavior, better habits and better general life skills.
- Special Olympics athletes develop integrity by learning to do the right thing.

### **SUCCESS**

Special Olympics Maryland Baltimore County offers 15 Olympic type sports through out the year, as well as, various local and county competitions. The strength of Special Olympics is the vitality, courage and diversity of the athletes, volunteers and families who participate.

### **OUTREACH**

To be a successful organization, Special Olympics Maryland Baltimore County must continually participate in outreach efforts to identify, enroll and retain athletes in our county program. The SOMDBA management team works to ensure that the Special Olympics experience is available to all individuals with an intellectual disability.

### **FUNDRAISING**

Special Olympics Maryland Baltimore County is a registered 501(c)3, nonprofit organization in the state of Maryland. Special Olympics Maryland Baltimore County receives no federal or state funding. All funds are obtained through public and private donations. The financial obligations of the county program are the responsibility of Special Olympics Maryland Baltimore County.

### **OATH**

"Let me win; but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

### **VOLUNTEERS**

Over, 100 dedicated volunteers share their time to provide athletes with the best training and competition opportunities possible. From coaching to officiating to sponsoring to planning, there's a position for everyone who wants to become involved. Special Olympics Maryland Baltimore County encourages the involvement of new volunteers who can share their talents in a variety of areas.

### **SPORTS**

Alpine Skiing, Athletics, Aquatics, Basketball, Bowling, Cheerleading, Cycling, Equestrian, Flag Football, Golf, Kayaking, Powerlifting, Sailing, Softball, Soccer, Unified Sports®

### **SOMD-BA EVENTS**

January- Cheerleading Championships  
February- Winter Games (State)  
March- Basketball Tournament (State)  
April- Inspiration Walk (SOMDBA Fundraiser)  
May- Spring County Games  
June- Summer Games, Sailing Regatta (State)  
September- Soccer Tournament  
October- Fall Classic (State)