Welcome to the 2015 Summer Games!

CELEBRATING 45 YEARS OF CHANGING ATTITUDES AND CHANGING LIVES

The Special Olympics Delaware Summer Games are held each year at the University of Delaware in Newark. What’s different this year is the spirit of unity and intense excitement that will result from bringing together all six sports to the University of Delaware as we celebrate 45 years of Special Olympics Delaware Summer Games!

- Get ready as an estimated 2,000 athletes, coaches, and volunteers will come together to be a part of one of the largest Special Olympics Delaware sporting events of the year!

- Every SODE Area will have its own tent at Olympic Village. Show your Area Spirit! Have fun and create an exciting hub for athletes!

- NEW! Opening Ceremony will be held in the daytime (starting promptly at 12:30pm) as the Law Enforcement Torch Run arrives with the Flame of Hope.

- Summer Games features two days of intense competition in aquatics, athletics (track & field), softball, bocce, powerlifting and tennis - together on one athletic complex!

- Every race, every game, every competition held at Summer Games represents many weeks of training, preparation and dedication on the part of our athletes, coaches and volunteers.

- Award ceremonies feature Delaware Law Enforcement as medal presenters at all venues. Be a fan of achievement!
The first-ever Special Olympics Unified Relay Across America (URAA) presented by Bank of America will give everyone in the country a chance to carry the Flame of Hope, as it makes its way across the USA to Los Angeles, California - the site of the Special Olympics World Games.

Over the course of 46 days, in a hand-to-hand exchange, over 20,000 participants will take part in the relay as it passes through all 50 states. The Unified Relay will have three simultaneous routes, Northern, Central and Southern, and will pass through all 50 states.

The Unified Relay will pass through Delaware on June 5th - and YOU are invited to participate! Choose to run or walk a half-mile or bike a 5-mile segment. Teams can include one to 15 people and the minimum fundraising requirement per team is $1,000. If a team raises $1,500 or more they will be awarded an official event torch!

**WHEN:** Friday, June 5 in Delaware; 16 segments from 12:15pm to 3:00pm

Delaware is part of the northern route and travels from Claymont to Newark.

There is still time to sign up! Visit www.unifiedrelay.org to register today.

For more information: Contact Ann Grunert at 302-831-3480 or email agrunert@udel.edu.

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The 2015 World Games is just two months away and is anticipated to be the largest event hosted by Los Angeles since the 1984 Olympic Games.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to our state delegation who will represent Special Olympics USA!

- Bruce (Forrie) Brown, Bowling
- Danny Yonker, Bowling
- Robin Long, Aquatics
- Ginger Shaud, Aquatics
- Mary Moore, Tennis Coach
- Jen Riley, Law Enforcement Final Leg Torch Runner

Like us on Facebook at http://www.fb.com/LA2015 | Follow us on: Twitter @LA2015 | Visit our website at www.LA2015.org
Chris Popp named 2015 Torch Runner of the Year

Delaware State Police Corporal Chris Popp has been named Delaware’s 2015 Torch Runner of the Year. Popp’s involvement in Special Olympics has spanned more than 15 years and includes roles as a program director and coach in addition to his activities with Delaware Law Enforcement for Special Olympics.

“I was captured by the spirit of competition among the athletes,” Popp, whose 13-year-old son, Brendan, competes for the MOT Tigers, recalled of his experience at an event. “And to see their expressions when all their hard work is awarded when I put that medal around their neck is something I never forget.”

Popp was formally recognized by the Delaware Police Chiefs Council on April 14 and will have the honor of carrying the “Flame of Hope” into the Bob Carpenter Center at the Opening Ceremony of the 2015 Summer Games and hand it off to the 2014 Outstanding Athlete, David Hill.

David competes in tennis, basketball, flag football, volleyball and bowling for the Newark Dragons. But his favorite sport is powerlifting. And it’s also the one he’s most accomplished in. His personal bests include squatting 640 pounds, bench pressing 400, and deadlifting 575.

David is so good at powerlifting that this past summer he won four gold medals at the Special Olympics USA Games. That’s four gold medals in four events. A perfect score.

“Powerlifting keeps me fit,” David, 30, said. “It makes me want to do my best, and I am good at it.”

COME AND JOIN US AT 12:30PM ON FRIDAY, JUNE 12 for the 45th Special Olympics Delaware Summer Games at the Bob Carpenter Center. Be inspired by as our communities come together to celebrate the joy of Special Olympics!

Nominations for 2015 Outstanding Awards

Special Olympics Delaware “Outstanding Awards” are open to athletes, families, coaches, organizations and volunteers who have made a significant contribution to Special Olympics Delaware. These distinguished awards will be presented in the fall of 2015 at our annual Night of Heroes event. Please visit our website at www.sode.org and click on “Special Programs” to download a Night of Heroes nomination form and to learn more about our past award recipients.
TORCH RUN
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
June 10-12, 2015

Wednesday, June 10 - 7:00pm
Rehoboth Beach Bandstand Torch Run ceremony
Send-off for the “Flame of Hope”
Music by 33 1/3

Thursday, June 11 - 2:00pm
Ceremony at Legislative Hall in Dover

Friday, June 12
9:45am
Ceremony at Wilmington Police Department

12:30pm
Arrival at the Bob Carpenter Center in Newark
for the Summer Games Opening Ceremony

Kick-off celebration and first 5 miles presented by
Nicola Pizza
What is Healthy Athletes?

The mission of the Special Olympics Healthy Athletes program is to improve the quality and length of life for Special Olympics athletes through healthy behaviors.

Healthy Athletes was developed to improve athletes’ health and fitness, leading to better sports experiences and improved well-being. At select Special Olympics events, we offer free health screenings, providing free products when possible and making referrals to local practitioners when appropriate.

Special Olympics builds healthy communities! We continuously work to strengthen the training and competitive experience of each Special Olympics athlete by promoting inclusive and healthy communities that create an environment of dignity, and support the athlete’s health, fitness and quality of life.

HEALTHY ATHLETES RETURNS TO SUMMER GAMES

Free Health Screenings for Opening Eyes, Healthy Hearing, Fit Feet and Special Smiles on Saturday, June 13 from 10am-2pm

In celebration of its 15th year integrated into the Special Olympics Delaware program, Healthy Athletes is offering all four components at the 2015 Summer Games.

Fit Feet, Healthy Hearing, Opening Eyes and Special Smiles will be offered to athletes and Unified partners on Saturday of Summer Games from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It is the first time in the program’s history when all four components will be offered exclusively on Saturday.

Parents and coaches – it is our hope that every effort will be made to visit all four components so the athletes can take full advantage of all there is to offer, including form-fitted insoles and prescription eyewear. And it’s all free of charge!

So come before, between, or after events, during lunch, or whenever you can spare the time to check it out. You won’t regret it!

If you think there is no need to attend because your son/daughter has a regular doctor, etc., please consider that for many of the healthcare professionals who volunteer for Healthy Athletes, this is an opportunity for them to get the experience of having someone with an intellectual disability as a patient. And a positive experience might encourage them to open their doors to more people with disabilities.

Healthy Athletes is offered worldwide with Delaware being one of only a handful of states where every single registered athlete statewide has easy access to it every year through their participation in Summer Games.
Join us for the 45th Special Olympics Delaware

Show your Area Spirit at your Area Tents! Located at Olympic Village all day Friday and Saturday. Visit your Area tent and have some fun!

... and don’t forget to visit HEALTHY ATHLETES on Saturday from 10-2pm (free health screenings) for all SODE athletes!
Join us for the 45th Special Olympics Delaware Summer Games!

June 12-13, 2015
at the University of Delaware

Souvenirs will be available in these areas

OPENING CEREMONY
at the Bob Carpenter Center
12:30pm - 2:00pm
(All venues will close during OC)

BOCCE
(COURTS 5-8)
OUTDOORS

POWERLIFTING
(Saturday only)

BOCCE
(COURTS 1-4)
INDOORS

OPENING CEREMONY
(Rullo Stadium)

BOCCE

POWERLIFTING

SOFTBALL

BE A FAN! VOLUNTEER. SUPPORT. COACH. COMPETE.
What started out in the 1980s as providing a simple static display allowing Special Olympics athletes to climb all over a fire truck during the Summer Games has turned into several volunteer firefighters rappelling 17 stories down the side of a building in Wilmington on May 14.

And it was all for a great cause -- Special Olympics Delaware.

The New Castle County fire companies have been involved in a variety of roles with Special Olympics Delaware for more than 40 years. In addition to providing static displays at events, volunteer firefighters and ambulance crews have jumped in the frigid Atlantic Ocean in February as Polar Bears. They’ve put together teams to participate in Dodgeball Madness and the Plane Pull, and have entered vehicles in the Truck Convoy. In addition, Aetna Hose, Hook and Ladder Company and its members have hosted the annual Reindeer Run since its inception nine years ago. It’s a win-win relationship according to Christiana Fire Chief Rich Perillo.

“Growth within ourselves will be made possible by simply partnering with such a great entity,” said Perillo, who is also involved with SODE as an officer with New Castle City Police Department. “The ‘Raising Awareness while Raising Money’ motto that has been spread with SODE is one that has embodied a similar mission with our service. We are seeing a greater benefit than ever imagined with the improvement and display of our ‘label’ as a Fire Service. Our memberships have regained, or in other cases, become introduced to an atmosphere of the pride and honor it takes to be successful . . . and success in providing an improvement to the quality of life of our citizens is paramount to our service.”

On May 14, several firefighters rappelled down the side of the 300 Delaware Avenue Building as part of the fifth annual Over the Edge event. Firefighters have volunteered at the event in the past and a few have gone “Over” individually, but this is the first year the companies have made it an organized effort to have multiple emergency and rescue volunteers rappelling.

“Several fire companies have joined us in supporting SODE,” said Wally Poppe, president of the New Castle County Volunteer Firefighters Association. “We have had a great turnout at our committee meetings from members of the fire service and ladies auxiliary who will be assisting us on the day of the event.”

And their effort won’t end when they land at the bottom of the building. The entire New Castle County Fire Service has collectively become a sponsor of the event, joining TD Bank and Brandywine Realty Trust as presenting sponsors.

“The Over the Edge event is described as: ‘Extreme Adventure . . . Extreme Community Impact,’” Perillo said. “‘There truly couldn’t be any better way to describe the service of Public Safety and Protection, which is provided by the dedicated members of the NCC Fire Service. There are very few things someone can do where courage and fear begin pumping through their veins at once. As public servants we find ourselves aching for this very juice to provide our invaluable service, which can be compared to no other.”

All 21 individual New Castle County Fire Companies along with the Fire Chiefs, Fire Police, Firefighters and Ladies Auxiliary associations that make up the New Castle County Fire Service have contributed to the sponsorship.

“This is really an unprecedented effort in terms of organizing several different groups that fall under one umbrella to sponsor an event,” said Lisa Smith, director of special events for Special Olympics Delaware. “What started out as having a handful of volunteer firefighters assisting at the Over the Edge event has turned into a county-wide effort among all 21 companies to drum up support for Special Olympics. We can’t thank the men and women from the fire departments enough for their efforts and support. And not just at this one event this year, but all of the events they have been involved in over the years.”

There may not have been any static truck displays at Over the Edge, but the presence of the men and women from the New Castle County Fire Service who were on hand as volunteers and edgers signified not only the continuation of a relationship that has spanned decades, but the beginning of one at an entirely different level that will hopefully flourish for years to come.

“Our plan is too continue to support and co-sponsor Over the Edge and to also increase our participation in other events during the year,” Poppe said.
Show your Area Spirit at Summer Games

Each of the 5 Areas will have their own big tent in the heart of Olympic Village for Summer Games -- this can be your Area’s home base for fun, friends, and team spirit! Family Liaisons and Area Directors will work together to get your ideas!

- Themed-tents
- Balloons and decorations
- Team-donated snacks and drinks
- Games or activities

The possibilities are endless ... make your tent fun and unique!

**Don’t forget to stay for the Family BBQ and dance party from 4:00-8:00pm at Olympic Village on Friday!

Area Sports Bulletin

All athletes and families should be receiving a quarterly Area Newsletter updated with seasonal Special Olympics Delaware sports information mailed directly to their home. If you are not receiving these Area Newsletters, please contact our main office at 302-831-4653 to verify your mailing address. Thank you!

**WHAT’S NEXT:** Training for Golf and Cycling are coming up this summer!

Tee up or get on that bike! Special Olympics sports training for golf and cycling are starting up in all Area programs. Look for more information to be mailed to your home next month through the Area newsletter. Many Area Leadership positions are also still available for interested individuals. Please contact your Area Director to become more involved!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREA</th>
<th>CYCLING</th>
<th>GOLF</th>
<th>AREA DIRECTOR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUSSEX RIPTIDE</td>
<td>Sussex cycling practices are on Thursdays from 6 - 7 p.m. at the National Guard Armory in Bethany Beach and will run weekly through the summer leading up to the Cycling Classic on September 12. For more information contact Marie McIntosh at <a href="mailto:mariemcintosh522@msn.com">mariemcintosh522@msn.com</a>.</td>
<td>Jim Watson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@sode.org">info@sode.org</a></td>
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<td>NEWARK DRAGONS</td>
<td>Contact your Area Director or Mark Wise (<a href="mailto:mwise@udel.edu">mwise@udel.edu</a>)</td>
<td>MaLinda Ross</td>
<td>Tim Kiser</td>
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<td>KENT WILD KATS</td>
<td>Pam Cannon</td>
<td>Bill Yonker</td>
<td>Dave Manwiller</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:sode.kent@gmail.com">sode.kent@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>WILMINGTON WIZARDS</td>
<td>Wesley Davis</td>
<td>Contact your Area Director or Mark Wise (<a href="mailto:mwise@udel.edu">mwise@udel.edu</a>)</td>
<td>Dave Cloud</td>
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<td>MOT TIGERS</td>
<td>Contact your Area Director or Mark Wise (<a href="mailto:mwise@udel.edu">mwise@udel.edu</a>)</td>
<td>Alan Hines</td>
<td>Bonnie Wagner</td>
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**If interested in any of the above vacant positions, please contact your Area Director.**
Delaware’s Truck Convoy, sponsored by FedEx Ground and Walmart, is part of The World’s Largest Truck Convoy® fundraising event. This unique police-escorted convoy through Kent and Sussex Counties is a celebration of the trucking industry and its support of Special Olympics.

Spend the day with us on Saturday, September 26! See more than 100 trucks parade through scenic southern Delaware. Special Olympics athletes will also have the opportunity to ride in one of our participating trucks serving as a passenger (athletes must be accompanied by a parent or guardian for the drive.) Look for more information this summer about how to sign up for the Truck Convoy!

A.I. duPont High School spearheads Sports Department Donation Drive

A.I. duPont High School’s athletic director, Mark Alley, organized an incredible fundraising effort in an effort for their school to give back to the community.

All athletic teams were encouraged to get involved, with every AIHS home game played in April designated as part of the “Special Olympics” donation drive.

In addition, a unified Special Olympics soccer game was played as an exhibition game during the girls’ soccer home game on April 29, uniting SODE athletes with AIHS varsity soccer players.

Our thanks to the incredible show of support from Mark Alley and AIHS for recognizing Special Olympics Delaware as a partner in this effort to promote “athletes helping athletes”! Many thanks also go to Theresa Moore for getting our SODE athletes ready and organized for this exhibition game.

Wawa Foundation gives back to the community

Since Wawa opened its first store in 1964, community relationships have been at the heart of Wawa’s purpose – from championing important causes, to in-store fundraising, to Wawa associates volunteering at community events.

Wawa partnered with Special Olympics for the Polar Bear Plunge and organized in-store coin canister campaigns, raising a total of more than $26,000 in donations for our organization since January. Special thanks to Bill Conner, Jon Stoklosa, Caitlin Coughlan and Natalie Rohe for representing Special Olympics Delaware at Wawa Day on April 16.

THANK YOU TO OUR YEAR-ROUND SPONSORS:
THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR FUNDRAISERS

... and for helping Special Olympics ensure that everyone has the chance to exert themselves to the fullest, to reach beyond their own limits, and to feel proud of their achievements. Each year, funds raised fuel our programs and ensures that our programs thrive and continue to grow. Thank you all for your support.

OVER THE EDGE

We congratulate all our brave “Edgers” who completed their 17-story rappel on Thursday, May 14 for Special Olympics Delaware! Live stream segments are linked to our homepage at www.sode.org. (Click on the Over the Edge button.) A big thank you to all of our generous sponsors and supporters, friends and family members who supported this event, knowing that it makes a difference in the lives of 3,700 athletes who train and compete in Special Olympics Delaware.

RIDE TO THE TIDE

What an amazing turnout for our 9th Anniversary year! We had record-breaking numbers with 954 bikers, 353 passengers and over $43,000 raised! This event continues to grow in popularity and we are ever thankful for the support of our community for the success of this law enforcement-escorted ride. Look for us next year as we celebrate our 10th year!

Dodgeball Madness

Mad props to our Delaware State Troopers Association for organizing the 2015 Dodgeball madness event! This year, 29 teams raised more than $15,000 - incredible!
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>Unified Relay Across America</td>
<td>Friday, June 5</td>
<td>Segments travel from Claymont to Newark</td>
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<tr>
<td>Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) Kick-off Ceremony</td>
<td>Wednesday, June 10 at 7:00pm</td>
<td>Rehoboth Beach Bandstand - join us! Music provided by 33-1/3.</td>
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<tr>
<td>LETR Torch Run Ceremony</td>
<td>Thursday, June 11 at 2:00pm</td>
<td>Legislative Hall in Dover</td>
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<td>2015 SODE Summer Games</td>
<td>Friday and Saturday, June 12 &amp; 13</td>
<td>University of Delaware sports complex</td>
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<tr>
<td>LETR Torch Run Ceremony</td>
<td>Friday, June 12 at 9:45</td>
<td>Wilmington Police Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Games Opening Ceremony</td>
<td>Friday, June 12 from 12:30pm - 2:00pm</td>
<td>Bob Carpenter Center, UD</td>
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<td>SODE Mission Tour</td>
<td>Wed., June 17</td>
<td>6:00 - 7:00pm</td>
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<td>SODE Mission Tour</td>
<td>Thurs., June 18</td>
<td>8:00 - 9:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>SODE Mission Tour</td>
<td>Wed., July 15</td>
<td>6:00 - 7:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>SODE Mission Tour</td>
<td>Thurs. July 16</td>
<td>8:00 - 9:00am</td>
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<td>2015 World Games</td>
<td>July 25-August 2</td>
<td>Los Angeles, California</td>
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<td>Summer Camp - Session 1</td>
<td>Sat.-Mon., August 8-10</td>
<td>Camp Barnes, Frankford, Delaware</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Camp - Session 2</td>
<td>Sun.-Tues., August 16-18</td>
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<td>SODE Cycling Classic</td>
<td>Sat., September 12</td>
<td>Dover Air Force Base</td>
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<td>Truck Convoy</td>
<td>Sat., September 26</td>
<td>Delaware State Fairgrounds, Harrington</td>
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<td>SODE Golf Tournament</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Brandywine Golf Club</td>
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<td>Night of Heroes</td>
<td>October (TBD)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall Festival</td>
<td>Fri. &amp; Sat., Oct. 30-31</td>
<td>St. Andrew’s Academy, Middletown</td>
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**For a complete calendar of events please visit www.sode.org.