“Winnie and I have always been inspired by the hard work, courage, and dedication of our athletes. Their ability to always reach out and touch us with their friendship and love is our continuous motivation to be involved!”

Barbara Spence
Board Member + Long Time Volunteer
To our many friends,

In this unprecedented time of uncertainty, we wanted to take a moment and thank each and every one of you for understanding the difficult decisions that have been made to date. Cancelling our fundraising and sports events and the many planning and training gatherings that often happen leading up to them is truly disappointing for everyone. The reality for us is - nothing is more important than your health and safety.

With that thought in mind, we have made the difficult decision to cancel Summer Games. This decision was made keeping in mind the health and safety of every person involved at the Games along with the fact that given the restrictions set forth by Special Olympics Inc. and the State of Delaware, it would be impossible for our athletes and teams to properly train leading up to the games.

And with the cancellation of the Summer Games, unfortunately all of the festivities around and including the Torch Run are also canceled.

With that difficult decision behind us, we are now turning our focus to the coming weeks and months as our organization celebrates its 50th anniversary. We have many activities planned to recognize this special occasion and some are already underway.

- Athlete health and training initiatives like School of Strength and Fit 5 have already started – but it’s not too late to join at www.sode.org – and, we are now offering a virtual virtual walk/run/bike/roll challenge open to our entire SODE community of athletes, coaches, families, volunteers and friends.
- Fall sports kickoffs will be held in August in each of the respective Areas.

So ... while we are facing the disappointment of not having a Summer Games this year, we can be thankful that there is a lot to look forward to once this situation is behind us.

Throughout this process, while working to ensure the safety of our athletes, coaches, volunteers, supporters and our entire SODE family, we have realized how much we appreciate each of you and your dedication to our mission – to bring individuals with intellectual disabilities out from behind closed doors and into a community of acceptance and respect.

Thank you for being such a valuable partner in this effort.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions. Stay safe, stay strong, stay healthy.

Complete list of canceled sport and fundraising events:
- 2020 Summer Games
- All Spring Sport Qualifying Events
- Over the Edge
- Fall Sports kickoffs
- 2020 State Basketball Tournament
- Summer Games Ads Solicitation Campaign
- School Soccer Skills Events
- Athlete Leadership Conference

DIAA UNIFIED BASKETBALL
CO-CHAMPIONS - DOVER AND CAESAR RODNEY HIGH SCHOOLS

The growth and inclusion brought to each Unified Basketball court is a true testament of the students, athletes, and administration of each school who participated in the 2019-2020 DIAA Unified Basketball season. Each year, we are fortunate to have ever-increasing participation, fostering respect, friendship and inclusion.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 virus pandemic and mandates from state and local government officials, the DIAA Unified Basketball Championship game was canceled to ensure the health and safety of students, athletes, families and friends who would be in attendance. This decision resulted in Co-Champions for the 2019-20 Basketball season - Dover High School and Caesar Rodney High School.

CONGRATULATIONS to both teams for their shared success!

UPDATES FROM SPECIAL OLYMPICS DELAWARE

JOIN US THIS FALL

UPDATES FROM SPECIAL OLYMPICS DELAWARE

JOIN US THIS FALL

SUMMER CYCLING AND GOLF

Cycling is an exciting sport that tones muscles and strengthens the cardiovascular system. It is also an enjoyable recreational activity that offers fun and relaxation and provides an inexpensive form of transportation. More than 90,000 people participate in Special Olympics cycling around the world.

Cyclists train over the summer and then compete at the annual Cycling Event in September.

Among Special Olympics sports, golf provides one of the greatest opportunities for athletes to train and compete with their peers. More than 35,000 athletes around the world participate.

Golfers attend clinics and play in outings on various courses throughout the summer and early fall before competing at the annual Chapter Golf Tournament at the beautiful Maple Dale Country Club in late September/early October.

For more information or to be a part of the Summer Sport season please visit www.sode.org.

FALL SPORTS
BOCCE • FLAG FOOTBALL • LONG DISTANCE RUNNING/WALKING • SOCCER • VOLLEYBALL

Athletes who compete in one of the five above sports will be able to attend the annual Fall Festival which takes place at St. Andrew’s School on a Saturday in late October or early November, sponsored by Chase. Special Olympics Delaware athletes will fill up the courts and fields to compete in their respective sports -plus- everyone can enjoy the fun, food, and festivities at Olympic Village!

We can’t wait to see you there!

HEALTH AND FITNESS
SCHOOL OF STRENGTH

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK AND OUR WEBSITE!

With sports and community activities presently suspended, Special Olympics invites you to stay connected with your fellow athletes and coaches by joining our online fitness program - School of Strength.

Being part of our online fitness program allows you to stay connected, have fun and stay healthy during this break from your favorite sports.

Also, going on now - don’t miss your chance to be a part of the Run/Walk/Bike/Roll Challenge happening through June 5th! Fit for Sport. Fit for Life.

For more information, please visit our website at www.sode.org
In 1970, Eunice Kennedy Shriver approached the late Bob Marvel, then President of the Wilmington Jaycees, about creating the Delaware chapter of Special Olympics. With two friends, Vic Murray and Don Bergner, they recruited athletes and volunteers and raised the necessary funds. The first Special Olympics athletic competition in Delaware was a track & field meet held on June 5, 1971, at the old Wilmington High School. Nearly 100 athletes participated. In attendance were County Councilman Joseph R. Biden, U.S. Rep. Pete Dupont, Gov. Sherman Tribbit, Wilmington Mayor Harry Haskell and University of Delaware football coach Tubby Raymond.

By the end of the 70s over 400 athletes were competing in the sports of aquatics, basketball, bowling, soccer and cross-country running.

Today, tomorrow, and in 50 more years Special Olympics Delaware will continue to showcase the triumphs of the human spirit and the capacity, for athletes with intellectual disabilities, to compete against their peers in sports. Currently, Special Olympics Delaware serves over 4,200 athletes and is supported by over 5,000 volunteers throughout the state of Delaware.

At Special Olympics Delaware, we come from different walks of life, but we share two powerful beliefs. Adults and children with intellectual disabilities have incredible potential, and sports can be the key to unlocking it.

We provide a supportive community of fellow athletes, parents, and volunteers who are committed to lifting one another up. The funds that are raised throughout the year ensures our athletes can compete in events across Delaware and beyond. Our mission is about much more than a game — it’s about discovering and celebrating the greatness we each have inside of us. We believe sports have the power to transform lives, because for 50 years we’ve seen sports do exactly that.

When our athletes build the confidence to step onto the field, their next step could take them anywhere. Join us for the next 50 - and BE THE DIFFERENCE!

“In 1974, when I was in school, kids with disabilities were extremely isolated, denied the support and engagement of sport activities. Today, Special Olympics Delaware is a leader of inclusion in our community, initiating inclusive programs across schools and counties that encourage a higher level of competitions and new opportunities for Unified sports and peer engagement.”

— Dave Manwiller, Area Director

“I’m always looking for new ways to get involved with the program, and learn new faces and skills! I hope to continue expanding my coaching skills, while developing a strong basketball team. But most importantly, I want to stay connected with SODE because it’s such a fun, positive, family-oriented organization.”

— Erika Romanowski, Newark Dragons, Coach
This fall, truckers will come from all over the U.S. to the Truck Convoy in support of Special Olympics Delaware. Hundreds of truckers meet at the Delaware State Fairgrounds and are escorted by Law Enforcement on a route through scenic Southern Delaware. The route brings everyone back to the Fairgrounds for a festival and celebration.

Special Olympics athletes have the opportunity to ride “shotgun” in the truck cabs during the Convoy. (limited to the first 25 registrants).

For more information or to register please visit www.sode.org.

The 2020 TRUCK CONVOY & FESTIVAL

Entry Fee: $100 per truck
Date: Saturday, September 26, 2020
This fall, truckers will come from all over the U.S. to the Truck Convoy in support of Special Olympics Delaware. Hundreds of truckers meet at the Delaware State Fairgrounds and are escorted by Law Enforcement on a route through scenic Southern Delaware. The route brings everyone back to the Fairgrounds for a festival and celebration.

Special Olympics athletes have the opportunity to ride “shotgun” in the truck cabs during the Convoy. (limited to the first 25 registrants).

For more information or to register please visit www.sode.org.

DELTA MEMORIAL BRIDGE RUN TO ACCEPTANCE

The 4th annual Delaware Memorial Bridge Run to Acceptance will take place this fall. This 5K run/walk gives first responders AND their friends and family the unique opportunity to cross the Delaware Memorial Bridge on foot, all while raising funds and awareness for Special Olympics Delaware.

For more event information, and registration, please visit www.sode.org.

The 4th annual Delaware Memorial Bridge Run to Acceptance will take place this fall. This 5K run/walk gives first responders AND their friends and family the unique opportunity to cross the Delaware Memorial Bridge on foot, all while raising funds and awareness for Special Olympics Delaware.

For more event information, and registration, please visit www.sode.org.

2020 REINDEER RUN AND ROMP

Date: Friday, December 4, 2020
The Reindeer Run, a nighttime 5K run/walk, is a great way for families to support Special Olympics Delaware. From casual walkers, to elite runners, to folks who just want to enjoy post-race chili and cookies, this event has something for everyone. The 3.1-mile course winds through downtown Newark, with holiday entertainment all along the way.

2020 JEEP RALLY FOR RESPECT

Plan to be a part of the 2nd annual Jeep Rally for Respect. This event is a police-escorted Jeep parade, followed by a show & shine, all taking place at the Delaware Beaches.

Stay tuned for additional event details and registration at www.sode.org.

For more information or to register please visit www.sode.org.

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**Please Note: At the time of printing, some event dates are TBD, dependent upon the evolving COVID-19 pandemic. Please check back to www.sode.org for updates.**
## 2020-21 Special Olympics Delaware Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIAL OLYMPICS EVENT</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Athlete Health and Fitness - Walk/Run/Bike/Roll Challenge</td>
<td>June 5</td>
<td>Online Submission to <a href="mailto:ctalmo@udel.edu">ctalmo@udel.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Night of Heroes Nominee Application Deadline</td>
<td>July 1</td>
<td>Online or SODE Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Camp</td>
<td>August 1-3 or 8-10</td>
<td>Camp Barnes, Frankford, Delaware</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Camp Golf Classic</td>
<td>September 14</td>
<td>Bidermann Golf Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families Day at the Beach</td>
<td>September TBD</td>
<td>CapeHenlopen State Park, Lewes, DE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeep Rally for Respect</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Delaware Seashore State Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SODE Cycling Classic</td>
<td>September 19</td>
<td>Dover Air Base Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truck Convoy</td>
<td>September 26</td>
<td>Delaware State Fairgrounds in Harrington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SODE Golf Tournament</td>
<td>September 29</td>
<td>Maple Dale Country Club, Dover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Night of Heroes</td>
<td>October 8</td>
<td>Executive Banquet Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge Run to Acceptance 5K</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Veteran’s Memorial Park - Delaware Memorial Bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Festival</td>
<td>October/November TBD</td>
<td>St Andrew’s School, Middletown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Champions Together Breakfast</td>
<td>November TBD</td>
<td>Sheraton Suites South, Wilmington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Champions Together Luncheon</td>
<td>November TBD</td>
<td>Baywood Greens Clubhouse, Long Neck</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reindeer Run and Romp</td>
<td>December 4</td>
<td>Downtown Newark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewes Polar Bear Plunge</td>
<td>February 7</td>
<td>Rehoboth Beach</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

THANK YOU TO OUR YEAR-ROUND SPONSORS: