

# Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

## June 24, 2022

**Special  
Olympics  
Maryland**



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### Welcome

Congratulations on a successful spring season and Summer Games! Last week at this time, we had Cheerleaders cheering, Swimmers swimming, and we were getting ready for Opening Ceremonies! We enjoyed some great competition on the mats, pool, track, softball fields, and bocce courts, and appreciate all that you do to make the spring sports season successful! It was great to be back with so many athletes, families, coaches, and volunteers at Towson University and Kiwanis-Wallas Park, and I hope that all those who attended had an enjoyable experience!

If there are any members of your area's leadership who are not currently receiving the Area Memo, please send their names and email address to [jabel@somd.org](mailto:jabel@somd.org).

### **(NEW) Shout out a volunteer**

This Area Memo's Shout outs go to...

#### **All Carroll County Coaches**

*Without this group of dedicated volunteers, we would not be able to provide the sports programs that we have in Carroll County. The number of hours they spend with our athletes is too many to count!*

*From: Laurie Brewer*

#### **Debbie, Barb, Stew, Mike, and Lynn**

*This team of volunteers gives so much time to making things work smoothly for our county and making sure our athletes have all the opportunities to succeed!*

*From: Laurie Brewer*

#### **Ellen Fineran**

*Ellen is a superhero for her heroic efforts in taking the Team MD Track Team to the Magic Kingdom on their final day at the 2022 USA Games! She goes above and beyond in giving our athletes the ultimate Disney Experience! Thank you, Coach Ellen, for all that you do for the athletes and families of SOMDPG!*

*From: Trish Miles*

**Richard Livingston**

*During a season filled with many unexpected challenges, Richard has immediately stepped up each time to ensure that our softball team athletes had the best training and competition opportunities possible! This has been above and beyond what one would expect from an assistant coach, and it has all been greatly appreciated!*

*From: Joyce Powell*

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Do you have a volunteer who has gone above and beyond to support our athletes and mission? Consider sending them an SOMD Shout Out! Recognize your program's coaches, area leaders, management team members, or other volunteers for outstanding contributions to your program! Shout outs will be compiled and added to the Area Memo to be sent out every 2 weeks.

Please use the link below to submit your shout outs!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LV88QG9>

**(NEW) 2022 SOMD Summer Games Wrap-up**

Thank you to everyone who joined us for three exceptional days of competition this past weekend for the 2022 Special Olympics Maryland Summer Games! It was absolutely uplifting and inspiring to see so many of our athletes return to the playing field, court, mat, pool and track.

Results for athletics (track & field), cheerleading, softball and swimming are all posted to the sport-specific Coach Resource Page (or will be by this evening), all available from the Summer Games Coach Resource Page (<https://www.somd.org/coach/coach-resources/summer-games/>). Bocce results will also be posted by Monday.

Please also be sure to complete the Summer Games online evaluation ([https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SG22\\_Eval](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SG22_Eval)). The SOMD Staff and Summer Games GMT review responses to this evaluation carefully and while it is not feasible to implement all suggestions made, we due give each response thorough consideration.

**(NEW) Welcome, Kyler Mellott**

If you were at Summer Games, you may have seen our newest staff member, Region Director, Kyler Mellott! Kyler joined our staff on 6/6 and will work with Jeff in the Local Program Department. Kyler will support the following local programs: Harford, Cecil, Kent, Upper Shore, and Lower Shore!

Some information on Kyler:

**Hometown:** Bellefonte, PA; Currently lives in: Bel Air, MD

**Education:** MS- Sport Science (Lock Haven University); BS- Sport Management w/ a Minor in Athletic Coaching (Clarion University)

**Favorite Sports to Play:** Baseball, Basketball, Golf

**If you could go to any sporting event, what would it be?** The World Series

**What are you looking forward to most about working with SOMD?** Working with local programs to provide more opportunities for athletes to compete, have fun, and make memories that will last forever!

Welcome, Kyler! We're looking forward to your great work in support of our athletes!

**(NEW) Carroll County Cheers for Champions**

The first of a series of Cheers for Champions events will take place at Brewery Fire in Taneytown on July 17, 2022. Brewery Fire will donate \$1.00 for every beer sold between 12:00pm-8:00pm. They will also hold a BINGO from 1:00-2:30pm. \$5.00 donation gets you 1 card for a variety of prizes.

Come out on 7/17 to support the athletes of Carroll County with a CHEERS for our Champions!

**(NEW) Lions Centennial Celebration**

On Saturday, 8/13/2022, The Lions Club will be celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a Unified Bocce Picnic at Towson University. Special Olympics athletes from Maryland, Delaware, and DC are invited for an afternoon of fun competition with the Lions and Leos! Please use the link below to register:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TWM7G6R>

**(NEW) Traffic Stop Practice Sessions for Drivers and Passengers**

Being pulled over for a traffic stop can be a stressful situation. Join Pathfinders for Autism and Anne Arundel County Police Department on Wednesday, July 6, 2022 for a Traffic Stop Practice Session specially designed for drivers and passengers with intellectual and developmental disabilities!

When: Wednesday, July 6, 2022 from 11:00am-3:00pm

Location: South River High School, 201 Central Ave E, Edgewater, MD 21037

For more information and registration, please visit: <https://pathfindersforautism.org/traffic-stop-aacounty/>

**2023 World Summer Games – SOMD Quota Received**

SOMD is very pleased to announce that it has received its quota for the 2023 World Summer Games to be held in Berlin: one male and one female cyclist, and 2 female kayakers. We have very limited additional information at this time, but do expect to have more information from SONA following the USA Games currently underway.

Please note: While we are not yet 100% certain from which competitions we will make the selections of our cyclists and kayakers and what additional requirements are being set, it is definite that to be considered for selection they must be training and competing in this upcoming season for their sports.

More info to come once it is available to us.

**SOMD AmeriCorps Positions**

Do you know of a recent high school or college grad looking for a great first step in a career? Or a grad student needing a position while they continue their education? **THINK AMERICORPS with SOMD!**

Special Olympics Maryland will be welcoming new AmeriCorps members to our team this summer for a 1-year position (August 15, 2022-August 14, 2023--- per grant requirements) in positions including:

- Volunteer Coordinator
- Unified Champion Schools Coordinator
- Metro Programs Coordinator
- Young Athletes Program Coordinator
- Eastern Shore Program Coordinator

AmeriCorps members get a monthly stipend plus a Segal Education Award (at the end of service) that can be used for student loans, tuition, books, or other expenses related to continuing education. AmeriCorps members are also eligible for interest free loan deferment for their term of service.

Position descriptions will be posted soon! But initial questions about AmeriCorps can be sent to Jeff ([jabel@somd.org](mailto:jabel@somd.org))

### **Torch Run Time!**

Torch Runs are coming to your community! These are a great opportunity to support the Law Enforcement who do so much for our communities, programs and athletes! Use this link for the most updated Torch Run schedule, and contact Betsy Jiron ([Bjiron@somd.org](mailto:Bjiron@somd.org)) with any questions:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1QF2kjDntM28m1f5TKyf8GavJpxRklFHtWTQ2pBJUAIQ/edit?invite=ClvM3MMM#gid=0>

As a reminder, 25% of net revenue from the Torch Run T-shirt and Hat program will directly benefit your local program!

### **Contract Reminders**

***Before you sign on the dotted line...DON'T (Please!)***

With so many events happening this spring, just another reminder that any contracts, agreements, or other documents that need signatures (including electronic signatures) must be sent to [risk@somd.org](mailto:risk@somd.org) for review and signature.

### **COVID Tracking Website**

After challenges with the Brown University website following the Maryland Health Department data breach, we have decided to switch our tracking website. We will now be pulling data directly from the Maryland Health Department COVID Data Dashboard.

While their full dashboard is filled with great information on many metrics, you can access the statewide and county by county cases per 100,000 by visiting: [https://state-of-maryland.github.io/DailyCaseRatebyJurisdiction/index\\_fullscreen.html](https://state-of-maryland.github.io/DailyCaseRatebyJurisdiction/index_fullscreen.html)

### **Return to Activities and COVID Protocol Website**

As we continue to engage athletes, partners, coaches, and volunteers in as many sports programs as we can, please remember to visit our Return to Activities Webpage linked below. This page will have necessary information and resources including the most up-to-date protocol.

<https://virtualso.md.com/return-to-play/>

### **(UPDATED) Pre-Season and Pre-Competition Webinars**

The dates and time for Pre-Season webinars have been set for the upcoming seasons. Please share this info with your coaches and sports volunteers.

#### **Pre-Season Coaches Webinars**

<b><i>Sport</i></b>	<b><i>Date/ Time</i></b>	<b><i>Registration / Recording Link</i></b>
Kayaking	Tue, May 31	Recording: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3sb6a005rWU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3sb6a005rWU</a>

## Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Date/ Time</b>	<b>Registration / Recording Link</b>
Kayaking - Trials	Wed, Aug 3 6:00-7:30 PM	<a href="https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvdemvrTkiGNEmPD4ViEE4U4neAT7hEH8!">https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvdemvrTkiGNEmPD4ViEE4U4neAT7hEH8!</a>
Kayaking - Finals	Mon, Aug 15 6:00-7:00 PM	<a href="https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcpf-isqzwuEtK3vquqoiaf2p-wpoUcXbj-">https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcpf-isqzwuEtK3vquqoiaf2p-wpoUcXbj-</a>
IUS Tennis	Wed, Nov 2 6:30-8:00 PM	<a href="https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMlcusrD8pE9VYH5v5qBeSAYshaj3GXNOp">https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMlcusrD8pE9VYH5v5qBeSAYshaj3GXNOp</a>

### Sports Department Contacts – Assigned Sports

If you have questions regarding a specific sport, coach education, or competition, please work with the corresponding Sport Director.

- **Melissa Anger, Senior Sports Director**

- [manger@somd.org](mailto:manger@somd.org), 410.242.1515 x122

Basketball	Softball
Cheerleading	Tennis
Flag Football	Locally Popular Sports: Volleyball, Cross Country Skiing
Soccer	

- **Ryan Kelchner, Sports Director**

- [rkelchner@somd.org](mailto:rkelchner@somd.org), 410-242-1515 x171

Athletics	Powerlifting
Bocce	Snowshoeing
Distance Running	Locally Popular Sports: Dance, Equestrian Sports, Floor Hockey
Golf	

- **Ben President, Sports Director**

- [bpresident@somd.org](mailto:bpresident@somd.org), 410.242.1515

Alpine Skiing	Swimming
Bowling (10 pin)	Locally Popular Sports: Figure Skating, Sailing,
Cycling	Short Track Speed Skating, Duckpin Bowling
Kayaking	

If you have questions regarding multi-sport events, or USA/World Games, please contact:

- **Steve Bennett, Senior Director, Competitions**

- [sbennett@somd.org](mailto:sbennett@somd.org), 410.242.1515 x102

Summer Games	USA Games
Winter Games	World Games
Fall Sports Festival	

If you have questions regarding High School Unified Sports (IUS) training and competition, please contact:

- **Zach Cintron, Senior Director, High School Unified Sports**

- [zcintron@somd.org](mailto:zcintron@somd.org), 410.242.1515 x161

IUS Athletics (Track & Field)	IUS Strength & Conditioning
IUS Indoor Bocce	IUS Tennis
IUS Outdoor Bocce	

## Questions?

If You Have Any Questions on Any Other Non-Sports-Related Issues, please contact a member of the Local Programs Team

- **Jeff Abel, Vice President. Local Program Development**
  - [jabel@somd.org](mailto:jabel@somd.org), 410-242-1515 ex. 121
  - Any general question, COVID Protocol
  
- **Melissa Kelly, Senior Director, Unified Champion schools**
  - [mkelly@somd.org](mailto:mkelly@somd.org), 410-979-5839
  - Unified Champion Schools, Youth Leadership, and School Engagement
  
- **Will Augustin, AmeriCorps Unified Champion Schools Coordinator**
  - [waugustin@somd.org](mailto:waugustin@somd.org)
  - Unified Champion Schools, Youth Leadership, and School Engagement
  
- **Mackenzie Irvin, Senior Director, Inclusive Health & Fitness**
  - [mirvin@somd.org](mailto:mirvin@somd.org), 857-939-4867
  - Young Athletes Program, Elementary School programming
  
- **Kayla Shields, Director, Inclusive Health and Fitness**
  - [kshields@somd.org](mailto:kshields@somd.org), 410-404-4115
  - Healthy Athletes, Fitness Programs, Unified Physical Education
  
- **Sue Snyder, Unified Physical Education Consultant**
  - [ssnyder@somd.org](mailto:ssnyder@somd.org)
  - Unified Physical Education
  
- **Sam Boyd, Volunteer Director**
  - [sboyd@somd.org](mailto:sboyd@somd.org), 443-766-9245
  - Volunteer Recruitment, Retention, Training
  
- **Allie Christman, AmeriCorps Volunteer Coordinator**
  - [achristman@somd.org](mailto:achristman@somd.org)
  - Volunteer Recruitment, Retention, Training
  
- **Mike Myers, Baltimore Region Director**
  - [mmyers@somd.org](mailto:mmyers@somd.org), 410-242-1515
  - Baltimore County and City
  
- **Kyler Mellott, Region Director- East**
  - [kmellott@somd.org](mailto:kmellott@somd.org), 410-242-1515
  - Harford, Cecil, Kent, Upper Shore, Lower Shore
  
- **Brooke Jenkins, AmeriCorps Eastern Shore Coordinator**
  - [bjenkins@somd.org](mailto:bjenkins@somd.org)
  - Kent County, Upper Shore, Lower Shore