

Special Olympics Maryland Area Memo

6/28/2024

**Special
Olympics
Maryland**



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Welcome

A big thank you to all of you for an excellent Spring Season culminating with a great Summer Games last weekend. While it was disappointing to cancel outdoor competition because of heat, our athletes enjoyed a great season of training, competition, and friendships.

If there are any members of your area's leadership who are not currently receiving the Area Memo, please fill out this form

Shout out a volunteer

This memo's shout outs go to...

Summer Games HODs- Thank you to our HODS who were able to quickly pivot with changes to the Summer Games schedule while keeping teams of athletes and unified teammates active and occupied on campus! Thank you for communicating with staff, coaches, athletes, and families to support a successful experience!

Spring Season Coaches- Thank you for providing an excellent spring season for your athletes. Whether or not they had the opportunity to compete at Summer Games, your efforts provided a successful and meaningful sports opportunity for your athletes and Unified Teammates.

The Summer Games Management Team and Sport Committees- Thank you for months of preparation and on-site execution, set up, and break down to provide our athletes with a memorable Summer Games.

Please use the link below to submit your shout outs!

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

(NEW) Welcome New SOMD Staff

We are excited to welcome new staff members this summer!

- **Caryssa Thomas** will be joining our team as Jim's Executive Assistant. Caryssa has over twenty years of administrative experience, most recently with TargetGov and the Baltimore Chesapeake Bay Outward Bound School as the EA to the Executive Director. Caryssa also has a family member with Down Syndrome who we hope to get involved with SOMD programming in the near future.
- **Julie Klein** will be one of our new Sport Directors. Several members of our team are familiar with Julie through her work with Freestate Ambulance where she worked as a national and state qualified EMT-B. Her work with Freestate led to her attendance at several SOMD competition events. Julie jumped right in and worked alongside our staff and volunteers wherever help was needed. Julie also has experience as a camp counselor at the Talbot Equestrian Center.
- **Manikanta 'Mani' Madala** recently earned his Master of Sport and Entertainment Management at the University of South Carolina. He has worked in a variety of event management roles, handling logistics and customer relations. Mani's first exposure to Special Olympics was in India, where he was a Research and Survey Assistant for SO-Bharat working with the Unified Champions and Young Athletes Programs. Mani as a cousin who participated in various sports with SO- New York. Mani will be at Summer Games next weekend, so you might get to meet him before July!
- **Bob Signor** will join the SOMD team as the Region Director – Central Maryland. Bob applied for two posted opportunities; however, through the interview process we determined SOMD would greatly benefit from Bob's knowledge, leadership, and vast experience as a Region Director. We will welcome him to the team on July 11th.
- **Allie Boyd** will be staying with SOMD when her AmeriCorps service has concluded in August. Allie has been with SOMF as an AmeriCorps member for the past 2 years, serving as our AmeriCorps Baltimore City Schools Coordinator. In this role, she has effectively led programming efforts with City Schools Adapted Physical Education staff for their sports programs in bowling, ice skating, swimming, and track and field. She also assisted school teams competing in Winter Games this year! Allie will be filling the role of Manager, Unified Champion Schools. In this role Allie will support the growth of 3-component Unified Champion Schools (Unified Sports, Inclusive Youth Leadership, and Whole School Engagement) in schools across the state. Allie has demonstrated a commitment and passion for our mission and programs, and we couldn't be more excited to have her continue with Special Olympics Maryland.

(NEW) Tip-A-Cop Event at The Hunter's Hound in Chevy Chase- 6/29/2024

The Hunter's Hound, in collaboration with Montgomery County Law Enforcement, and Special Olympics Maryland, is hosting a "Tip a Cop" fundraiser June 29, 2024 from 12:00 noon – 3:00 pm. During the event, representatives from law enforcement will be teaming up with Special Olympics Maryland athletes and The Hunter's Hound staff to welcome and serve customers during their dining experience. This unique event will offer guests the opportunity to donate ("Tip-A-Cop") to support the 19,871 athletes and Unified teammates who train and compete year-round in 27 different sports. These athletes and Unified teammates participate free of charge, so funds will support expenses like uniforms, equipment, facilities, transportation, and housing and meals for Summer and Winter Games, among other expenses. For those unable to attend, donations can be made before, during or after the event through the giving portal. Tip-A-Cop is a Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Maryland event.

More details on the [Facebook Event Post](#).

(NEW) 2nd Annual Pint Size Plunge- July 20, 2024

Join Special Olympics Maryland at Lone Oak Farm Brewing for the Pint Size Polar Bear Plunge on Saturday July 20 from 12:00pm-5:00pm as a 6-month kick off to the 2025 MSP Polar Bear Plunge. Bring the family, experience inclusion, and join us for a fun-filled day of food, drinks, music and 2 unique plunge experiences. Buy and enter pint size into the pond plunge for a change to win prizes, and/or cool off in our trough plunge on site!

Visit <https://plungemd.com/pint-size-plunge/> for more details!

Free Tickets to Blue Crabs Game – July 26 at Regency Furniture Stadium in Waldorf

Thank you to George Hoehl who has arranged for free tickets for the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs minor league baseball team. These tickets are for Friday, July 26, 2024 with a 7:00pm game time at Regency Furniture Stadium (11765 Saint Linus Drive, Waldorf, MD 20602). Tickets are free and parking is free as well. Please see the attached flyer and contact George Hoehl for tickets or more information (ghoehl@hotmail.com).

Area Program Sport & Activity Information Form

To more effectively capture the many programs and activities taking place in the community, we have put together a Training Program Information Form.

This form will help our state office stay more organized with up-to-date information on what programs are happening, where they're happening, and when they are happening.

Please submit 1 form for each sport/activity from your program using the link below:

<https://wkf.ms/3Kqg0Zp>

To avoid duplicate submissions, Coaches, Sport Volunteers, and Sport Coordinators, please work with your Area Leadership on submitting this form as they may have done so already.

We ask that this is submitted by the registration deadline during each sport season.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Abel (jabel@somd.org).

Area Program Fundraiser Info Form

As we discussed in our Area Director meeting and on Monday's call, we'd like to get a better idea of the many fundraisers taking place around the state in support of Special Olympics Maryland. This will also help us advertise your events while also consolidating state office requests for credit card machines, Classy Pages, and more.

[Moving forward, please fill out this form when you are planning a fundraiser.](#)

Donation Information Corner

1. **Area Donation Tracking Link:** please use this link to provide information to SOMD about any anticipated gifts that may come directly to the SOMD office or bank account:
[Area Donation Tracking Report](#)
2. **Private Donation Link for Honor/Memorial Donations and specific gifts from donors:** If you have an individual donor or sponsor that has reached out to you and wants to make a donation to support your program directly, or if you would like to include a link for memorial donations, you can provide this PRIVATE donation link, but please remember, **this link cannot be included on your local area website or sent out as an email blast**. Please encourage donors to fill out the "Direct My Gift to" dropdown in the form. [Private Giving Link Request](#)

3. **Stock Giving Option:** please provide the information below to anyone who would like to make a gift of stock to your local area program. You can also notify SOMD that a gift is coming to support your program by adding this information to the [Area Donation Tracking Report](#).

To make a gift of stock, please share this information with your financial advisor:

Morgan Stanley LLC
DTC #0015

For the benefit of Special Olympics Maryland/633-117478

c/o: Morgan Stanley
650 S. Exeter Street, Suite 1100
Baltimore, MD 21202

4. **Matching Gifts:** Many companies generously offer to match their employees' charitable contributions. Some even provide matching funds to support employee volunteer hours. Most of these programs match contributions dollar for dollar, and some will even double or triple the amount of your gift!

[Click Here](#) to enter your employer's name to see if they participate in the matching gift program, and if they do, get a link to the matching donation page.

If you are aware of any matching gifts that may be coming in for your local area program, please notify SOMD that a gift is coming to support your program by adding this information to the [Area Donation Tracking Report](#)

Finance Corner

FUN FACT - SHOT PUT

- The first events resembling the modern shot put likely occurred in the Middle Ages when soldiers hurled cannonballs
- The sport has been a part of the modern Olympics since 1896
- Ryan Crouser holds the world record in shot put, both indoor and outdoor. He set the outdoor world record at 23.56 meters in May 2023
- Crouser has been awarded two Olympic gold medals and three world titles. If he wins again in the Paris Olympics, he will be the first athlete in his sport to win 3 Gold metals
- Ryan earned a master's degree in finance at the University of Texas

BUDGET 2025 – The schedule for completing the 2025 budget has been set. This schedule will be shared during the AD Webinar and emailed to everyone. To make sure that the budget packet is ready for the Board in December, please keep to the schedule.

MARTUS - We will be using the MARTUS budget software again this year. Because we are limited to the number of licenses to log in, please work with your regional director when completing your budget. Joanne will be holding a MARTUS refresher course on August 6th from 1-2:30p. Invitations have already been sent out. Please join her in the main conference room for some hands-on training. We will also review the mechanics of coding. You are encouraged to bring your computer so that you can 'try out' as we go along. There is a Zoom link included in the invitation for those that can't make it in person. The training will be recorded.

Budgets are due on or before **September 20th**. If you need any assistance, please reach out to the finance team.

BANKING - Remember to continue to monitor your cash balances between checking, savings, and the investment portfolio. The end of a quarter is a great time to assess your positions. Currently, checking balances are creeping up. Savings is earning 5% interest.

CORP. CREDIT CARDS – just a quick reminder, as we have some new card holders. Please remember to complete your credit card transaction coding and receipting in the Truist ESP portal by the 3rd business day after the close of the month. Coded transactions need to be approved by the 6th business day. Thank you for continuing to support this process.

Kim will be on vacation June 24th – June 28th. Joanne will be in Lancaster PA July 10th – July 15th, working remotely in between conference events, and on vacation July 22nd – July 26th.

If you have any questions about this update, please reach out to Joanne.

(UPDATED) Pre-Season and Pre-Competition Coach 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 (slides from recorded sessions are available on the respective CRP)

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Registration / Recording Link</i>
Athletics (T&F)	Tue, 3/26	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q-Sr8Yf6Rfq
Bocce	Mon, 3/25	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JKiO5ssqpw8
Cheerleading	Wed, 3/20	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXWxcnK3ulA
Softball	Wed, 3/20	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZtc15UZofQ
Swimming	Tue, 3/19	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=euixUvfBvVc
Kayaking	Tue, 5/21	Recording: https://youtu.be/cwSNcOFza5w

Pre-Competition Coaches Webinars (slides from recorded sessions are available on the respective CRP)

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Registration / Recording Link</i>
Athletics (T&F)	Tue, 6/4	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4qLiqT8imU
Bocce	Wed, 6/5	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pvMwheatuxRo
Cheerleading	Tue, 6/11 7:30-8:30p	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlodOivrijvGtyOPMoGuQ8yUBZX54YVGZi7
Softball	Tue, 6/11 6:00-7:00p	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYocOqurz8sHdxJupj2u0lJOH6eDnKEcf43
Swimming	Thu, 6/6	Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6UOZ6DbAx0E
Kayaking Time Trails	Wed, 8/7 6:00-7:30p	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsdO6urT4iHdH5GrfiPkAXMRmQm7RckgOO
Kayaking Finals	Wed, 8/14 6:00-7:30p	https://somd.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0odO-uqD0oG9OS1rq-dWhkEPvhmXtYvy1K

Sports Department Contacts – Assigned Sports

Your Area Director and Area Leadership should always be your first point of contact. However, should 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, 410.979.5112
 - Basketball
 - Cheerleading
 - Flag Football
 - Softball*Locally Popular Sports: Volleyball*
- **Julie Klein, Sports Director**
 - Sports TBD
- **Mani Madala, Sports Director**
 - Sports TBD
- **Jake Novick, Sports Director**
 - jnovick@somd.org, 774.276.5861
 - Bocce
 - Bowling (10 pin)
 - Soccer
 - Tennis*Locally Popular Sports: Duckpin Bowling, Pickleball, Short Track Speed Skating,*

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

- **Steve Bennett, Senior Director, Competitions**
 - sbennett@somd.org, 304.991.1421
 - Summer Games
 - Winter Games
 - Fall Sports Festival
 - USA Games
 - World Games

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, 973.862.0414
 - IUS Athletics (T&F)
 - IUS Outdoor Bocce
 - IUS Indoor Bocce
 - IUS Strength & Conditioning
 - IUS Tennis
 - IUS Flag Football
- **Tyler Harrell, Manager, High School Unified® Sports**
 - tharrell@somd.org, 410.251.0331
 - IUS High School program logistics and coordination with Districts and Local School Systems

If you have questions regarding training/competition registration certifications or the processing of forms, please contact:

- **Dottie Rush, Registration Manager**
 - drush@somd.org, 410.242.1515 x111

Overall Sports Leadership (any sports/competition questions that aren't related to a specific sport)

- **Mike Czarnowsky, Vice President, Sports**
 - mczarnowsky@somd.org, 410.241.6280

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 Programs**
 - jabel@somd.org, 410-242-1515 ex. 121
 - Any general question
- **Melissa Kelly, Senior Director, Unified® Champion schools**
 - mkelly@somd.org, 410-979-5839
 - Unified® Champion Schools, Youth Leadership, and School Engagement, Middle School Sports
- **Julie Martin, Manager, Unified Champion Schools Consultant**
 - jmartin@somd.org
 - Unified Champion Schools Grant
- **Mackenzie Irvin, Senior Director, Inclusive Health & Fitness**
 - mirvin@somd.org, 857-939-4867
 - Young Athletes Program, Elementary School programming
- **Kayla Shields, Director, Inclusive Health and Fitness**
 - kshields@somd.org, 410-404-4115
 - Healthy Athletes, Fitness Programs, Unified® Physical Education
- **Abi Bauman, Manager, Young Athletes Program**
 - abauman@somd.org, 802-881-4623
 - Young Athletes Program in school, community, and home
- **Sue Snyder, Unified® Physical Education Consultant**
 - ssnyder@somd.org
 - Unified® Physical Education
- **Sam Boyd, Volunteer Director**
 - sboyd@somd.org, 443-766-9245
 - Volunteer Recruitment, Retention, Training
- **Mike Myers, Sr. Director, Area Programs**
 - mmyers@somd.org, 443-799-5335
 - All Area Programs- Primary POC for, SM, CH, CL
- **Bob Signor, Region Director- Central**
 - bsignor@somd.org
 - Anne Arundel, Baltimore County, Howard, Montgomery
- **Horace Dickerson, Region Director- Metro Programs**
 - hdickerson@somd.org
 - Baltimore City, Prince George's County
- **Allie Boyd, City Schools Coordinator**
 - aboyd@somd.org, 223-848-1210
 - Baltimore City Schools APE Sports Program
- **Kyler Mellott, Region Director- East**
 - kmellott@somd.org, 814-470-9474
 - Harford, Cecil, Kent, Upper Shore, Lower Shore
- **Matt Deal, Region Director- West**
 - mdeal@somd.org, 240-329-1801
 - Carroll, Frederick, Washington Allegany, Garrett