



**Special
Olympics**
Maryland



50
YEARS
1970-2020

July 2023 Newsletter - Issue #5

Summer Sports Registration

Registration for Golf and Spirit Fitness is closed.

Fall Sports Registration

Registration for fall sports (bowling, cycling, distance running, flag football, powerlifting, soccer, tennis, volleyball, Young Athletes and Spirit Fitness) is now open. [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#). **NOTE:** Athletes registering for a team sport must review the [Policy on Participating in Team Sports](#) before registering for any team sport. They must also commit to attending state games. Athletes may only register for one team sport a season.

Best of Howard County - Vote for Special Olympics Howard County

Best of Howard County voting is now open and people can vote [here](#) once per day through July 13th. SOHO is nominated in two categories: **Best Volunteer Organization** and **Best Event** (for Over the Edge). Competition in both categories is stiff so vote as many times as you can to support our organization.

Also, there are several sites that we use for training (Dill Dinkers for pickleball, 12Labours CrossFit, Colosseum for powerlifting, Waverly Woods, Fairway Hills and Turf Valley for golf and great sponsors such as Allan Homes, Dembo Jones and Environmental Systems Associates). Please consider supporting them as well, especially if you train or coach at any of those sites.

Office Hours

Office hours are 8:30 - 1:30 Monday and Thursday, 1:30 - 6:30 on Tuesday.



Howard County Law Enforcement Torch Run

On June 21st, the Howard County Law Enforcement community brought the Flame of Hope to Western Regional Park in Woodbine where five SOHO athletes were deputized as part of this annual

event prior to SOMD Summer Games. The Law Enforcement Torch Run

2023 Volunteer Orientations

Tuesday, July 25, 2023
Wednesday, August 23, 2023
Wednesday, September 20, 2023
All begin at 7pm at the SOHO office.

Volunteers interested in any fall sports (bowling, cycling, distance running, flag football, powerlifting, soccer, tennis, volleyball, and Young Athletes), or in any one-day competitions should attend.

raises awareness and important funds that support Special Olympics athletes throughout Maryland.

Deputized this year were Will Alexion (Sheriff's Office), Gillian Eisenberg (State's Attorney's Office), Michael Ord (Police Department), Hannah Saltzman (State Police), and Ed Sommerville (Department of Corrections). After opening ceremonies, there was a 5K run and a 2.5K run/fun walk. Click [here](#) and [here](#) to see great photos of the day's event and photos of our athletes with the organization with whom they were deputized.

Thank you to the Howard County Law Enforcement community for their continued support of our athletes.

Summer Games Highlights



Special Thanks - A big thank you to Colleen Donovan who assumed the Head of Delegation role at Summer Games. Colleen did an outstanding job in her first year and we greatly appreciate her stepping into that role.



Opening Ceremonies: Representing SOHO in the parade were (L-R) Brandon McLarin, Meaghan Hyer, Coach Debbie Docal, Ory Docal and Sam Emmerling.

Contact Megan Larson at meganlarson@somdhc.org for more information. Parents and siblings of athletes as well as students looking for service hours are welcome to volunteer!



Athlete Leadership Training

SOMD is offering two Athlete Leadership training opportunities. The first is **Improv Training and Athlete Leadership** and is open to any athlete. The training is on July 15th from 9:00 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. at the SOMD office (3701 Commerce Drive, Suite 103, Baltimore, MD). For an outline of what will be covered, click [here](#).



On July 15th and 16th, 2023, there will be a **Certified Athlete Leadersip Training course** at the SOMD office (see address above). To take this weekend training, the athlete must have taken the Introduction and Understanding Leadership Courses in order to attend these Certified Athlete Leader Trainings. The course outline for the weekend with times can be found [here](#).

For further information and registration, contact Jason Schriml



Athletics

Bocce

Bocce athletes bravely endured the heat and weather delays to participate in Summer Games. Competition was fierce but the SOHO athletes impressed everyone with their skills and many medals were

won. Special thanks to coordinator Jackie Miller, coaches Abby Penenburgh and Michael Saltzman and volunteer Beth Greenberg. Enjoy photos from the Bocce competition at Summer Games [here](#).



Cheer/Poms/Hip Hop:

The Cheer and Dance Hawks did a wonderful job at the 2023 SOMD Summer Games, taking home four medals: (2 Golds (Cheer Hawks and Royal Hawks - Hip Hop); 1 Silver medal (Pearl Hawks-Poms) and 1 Bronze (Diamond Hawks-Hip Hop).

Everyone had a lot of fun competing and most of all dancing in between routines. They got a lot of the other counties dancing in the aisles 😊.

A big Thank You to our Head Coach, Barbara Baker, and Coaches, Hillary Scott and Michelle Shuman for their dedication and hard work. Could not have done this without them. Also thanks to Co-coordinators Felecia Hastings and Stellamarie Kosman.

(jschriml@somd.org) or text 410-916-4749.

Recreation and Parks Activities

Adaptive Kayaking: Do you love the outdoors and the water? Have you ever wanted to learn how to kayak? Learn the basics to kayaking, such as safety and paddling, in this supportive and adaptive session! First class meets at the Roger Carter Community Center where participants must be able to pass a swim test to continue within the program. Participants must be independent for this program. Participants are in single kayaks and must independently propel themselves. Goals include increased leisure awareness and skills development. This program is a prerequisite to adaptive river trips (future program). Detailed information will be emailed. Info: Nick Owens, 410-313-1671 or

nowens@howardcountymd.gov.

16 yrs + | Centennial Pk boat docks | Classes: 5
RP4310.401 | Jul 13 | 5-6:30pm | Th | \$157

Register [here](#).

Ican Bike Camp: Children, adolescents and young adults with disabilities learn how to ride a bike without training wheels. Parent must attend informational meeting on Sunday, July 16 at 3pm and be onsite for the camp. Participants must attend all five days of the camp. Schedule dates and time subject to change per contractor availability. Goals: Develop skills for independent riding, build self-confidence, and increase health and well-being. Participant must have a documented disability and be at least 8 years old and may not weigh more than 220 pounds. Info: Susan Potts at spotts@howardcountymd.gov.

8 yrs + | Gary J Arthur CC | Classes: 5
RP4218.401 | Jul 17 | Various Times | M-F | \$150

Register [here](#).



Softball

Coach Duke led his team along with Coach Garrett and assisted by the amazing Beth. In the first game, Will and Jake both hit home runs! Jeff did an amazing job pitching and everyone worked like a well-oiled machine, trying to grasp victory. But victory was just out of reach. In the second game Jake hit two home runs which included a grand slam! Mary truly shined on the pitcher's mound and the team did not let the defeat in the first game get to them. They only let the other team score one run before shutting them down, with a final score of 11-1 Hawks and went home with Bronze medals!

Coach Chris' team played 3 fantastic games under the excellent leadership of Coaches Chris, Don, and Michael and volunteers Bryan and Tuwanda. The third game was a nail-biter that ended up a 5-5 tie and went to extra innings in which the Hawks scored 4 runs to win the Gold medal with a score of 9-6!



Swimming

39 athletes from Howard County swam at State Games. Many athletes bravely took on challenging strokes and distances. There were numerous best times and gritty & inspiring performances. Relays are where swimming becomes a team sport and 8 relay teams competed. The swimming coaches

Medical Support Needed

Do you have a medical or nursing degree? Are you an EMT? We are in need of medical support staff to assist at competitions. You would be asked to attend a competition two to three times a year to provide medical assistance, if needed. Special Olympics will provide supplies. If you can help, send an email to info@somdhc.org.

Cheer On Special Olympics Unified All-Star Game --- Free Soccer Clinic

There is an amazing opportunity in July! The Special Olympics Unified All Star Soccer game will be held at Glenn Warner Soccer Facility at the Naval Academy! This is a big East vs. West Unified game with athletes all over the country. This game is free and open to anyone! SOMD would like us to show these teams our support! The game will take place on Wednesday, July 19th at 3:00pm. Parking will be at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis with a shuttle that will take you on base to the game. There will be lots of giveaways for the first 250 fans! In addition, there will be there will also be a FREE soccer clinic for all ages, led the MLS Great Mike Chabala! This is open to athletes of all ages and abilities! Click [here](#) for all the information on the event. .

Bocce Opportunities

Throughout the summer, Special Olympics Maryland will be teaming up with Community Partners to host Unified Bocce events! These fun events are a great way for our partners to get hands-on experience with our many programs. Special Olympics Maryland is looking for athletes to play Unified Bocce---

and volunteers are proud of each and every athlete who earned the privilege to represent Howard County at Towson this year!



(L-R) Elliot Kim, John Renfro-Acevedo, Adam Tucci, Henry Newton

(L-R) Megan Kemp, Emily Walker, Jessica Sergi, Danya Costa



Sponsor Highlight: Howard Hughes Corporation

Director Bob Baker and Fundraising Chairperson Cole Schnorf presented Howard Hughes Maryland President Greg Fitchett with an appreciation plaque for being the **Presenting Sponsor** of our Over the Edge event. Thanks to Greg, Brent Wise and Ilsy Holgate, HHC rallied many businesses in Howard County to also become corporate sponsors of the event which helped raised \$285,400 in our first two years of the event! In addition, Greg and his wife, Cris rappelled both years as well. We are extremely grateful for HHC's support in sponsoring this event.

athletes do not have to have played bocce during the typical bocce season to join us!

Opportunity #1: Aston Carter Unified Bocce- July 19, 2023 from 5:00pm-6:00pm, 7317 Parkway Drive S., Hanover, MD 21075

Opportunity #2: Maryland Leadership Workshop Unified Bocce- July 21, 2023 from 2:00-4:30pm

Please use this [link](#) to sign up for one or both of these fun events

Car Donations Benefit SOHO

Through the efforts of longtime coach and volunteer, Duke Silvea, Special Olympics can now accept car donations to benefit our program. Since the beginning of this program, we have received **\$19,011.00** in donations!

If you have a car you would like to donate, please contact the office at 410-740-0500 or email info@somdhc.org. We will come and pick up your car, ready it for sale, and provide you with a tax deduction for the amount the car is sold for at auction. Please help us by donating an unwanted vehicle!

Photos Of Our Athletes

You can enjoy photos of our athletes at practice, competitions and other events on our photo page.

[Event Photos](#)

Summer Games Dates Set Through 2025

SOMD has made the decision to shift Summer Games to the weekend immediately following Fathers' Day for at least the next three years:

- June 21-23, 2024
- June 20-22, 2025



Newsletter Information

If you are an athlete, parent or caregiver, we highly recommend that you do not Unsubscribe from this newsletter. You will miss valuable information about seasonal sports registration, policies, highlights, activities and other relevant information. Please add info@somdhc.org and bobbaker@somdhc.org email addresses to your address book so that this letter does not go into your Junk Mail folder. If you have any suggestions or questions about the newsletter, please let us know at info@somdhc.org.



Are You Ready to Go Over the Edge?

Did you miss out on going Over the Edge in last year's event? Did you wish you had signed up when you saw how much energy was generated at the event among the participants? Then wait no more.

Our 3rd Over the Edge event, presented by SOHO and the Howard Hughes Corporation, will take place this year on September 23rd. The event challenges individuals to rappel down 12 stories of the tallest building in Howard County, the 6100 Merriweather Building in the Merriweather District in support of the athletes of Special Olympics Howard County. All rappellers must fundraise \$1,000 to secure their spot at this thrilling event which gives you several months to get people to support your efforts. To register, click [here](#).

Corporate sponsorship opportunities that help defray the cost of the event are available. If you are interested in being a corporate sponsor or if you know of companies or organizations that are interested in being a corporate sponsor, contact Cole Schnorf (cschnorf@manekin.com). You can check out the sponsorship packages and benefits [here](#).

Good Sports Award

Nominations are now being accepted for the **Good Sports Award** which is part of the **Celebration of Sports** on October 17th. For those of you who have attended the Hall of Fame induction, you will remember that awards were also presented to a representative from various county sports programs in these categories -Officials, Youth Sports Coach, Youth Player (under 18), Adult Player (18 and older), Official and Sports Administrator. Each sports organization is allowed to submit one name in each category from their program. Nominees are evaluated in the following categories: Honor, Civility, Leadership, Teamwork, Sportsmanship and Respect.

Last year, SOHO had four individuals receiving these awards - Coach Adam Yoe (Distance Running), Adult Athlete Glenn Donovan, Youth Athlete Orlando Docal, and Sports Administrator Jenn Minneart. If you have someone in any of the above categories you would like to submit, please send Bob or

Marilyn the name of any individual that you would like us to consider for our Special Olympics representative nominee. Provide the name and sports participating in along with a short (100 words or less) write up describing why your nominee should be selected as our representative for that category. The deadline to submit the nomination to us is August 4th.

2022 OVER THE EDGE SPONSORS

Our deepest appreciation to our Over the Edge Sponsors.

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Special Olympics Howard County

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[Contact SOHO Today](#)

