



**Special  
Olympics**  
Maryland



**50**  
YEARS  
1970-2020

## August 2023 Newsletter - Issue #6



### Jack Burk To Be Inducted into Community Sports Hall of Fame

We are thrilled to announce that long-time SOHO coach and volunteer, **Jack Burk**, has been selected as one of this year's inductees into the **Howard County Community Sports Hall of Fame**. Jack joins previous SOHO individuals in the Hall of Fame - Bob Baker (2006), Marilyn Miceli

(2014) and Allan Waschak (2016).

Jack Burk joined Special Olympics as a basketball coach in 2000. Over the course of his 23 years with Special Olympics Howard County, he has built multiple innovative programs. His ability to relate to athletes of all ability levels has made him an invaluable asset to the Special Olympics community. In addition to basketball, Jack also helped out as a golf coach from 2001 to 2007. He also served at the Special Olympics Maryland level on the golf and basketball sports development teams. Jack also champions for the incorporation of student volunteers into working with Special Olympics athletes. When his daughter Jackie passed away in 2004, the Burk family honored her memory by establishing a scholarship fund in her name to honor these outstanding student volunteers. As of 2023, through the generous donations of family and friends, the Jackie Burk Memorial Scholarship has provided financial assistance of more than \$31,000 to 22 outstanding Special Olympic student volunteers who embody Jackie's spirit of volunteering with Special Olympics athletes.

The induction ceremony will take place at the 19th annual Celebration of Sports on Tuesday, October 17th at the Turf Valley Resort and Conference Center.

### Office Hours

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

### Sports Registration

Registration for fall sports is now closed. Winter sports registration will open in early November.

### Help Shape SOMD's Future by Completing Survey

As our Special Olympics Maryland works to develop the next strategic plan for the organization, your feedback is valuable! Please **CLICK HERE** to take a brief survey (should take approximately 5-7 min.) to provide feedback on your experience participating with Special Olympics Maryland! Participation is anonymous, but you can provide contact information. Help continue to grow our programs by completing the survey!



## 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. This year, we will have three ropes to provide more slots, so challenge your friends, family, and co-workers to join you in channeling your fears to go over the edge. 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](mailto:cschnorf@manekin.com)). You can check out the sponsorship packages and benefits [here](#).

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## Coaching Courses Offered In-Person at SOMD HQ

SOMD has announced the return of **Coaching Special Olympics Athletes (CSOA)** and **Principles of Coaching (PoC)**. These courses, offered free of charge, will serve to renew any existing Coach Sport Certification for 3 years.

**IMPORTANT:** CSOA is a required course for ALL coaches (no coach will earn a sport certification or have an existing certification renewed/extended unless they have completed CSOA once; only exception is for coaches who work exclusively with Unified sports, in which case they must complete the online Coaching Unified Sports (CUS) course).

There must be a minimum of 7 registrants signed up at least 2 days in advance of each course due to the heavily "discussion-focused" nature of these courses. There will be a cap of 25 registrants per session.

Registration is required *at least 2 business days in advance* of the course so SOMD can be sure they have a sufficient number to hold each class and to have an adequate number of packets and refreshments available.

### **Coaching Special Olympics Athletes (CSOA)**

Saturday, September 30, 9:00am – 1:00pm

### **Principles of Coaching (PoC)**

Sunday, September 10, 9:00am – 2:00pm

Session will include a working lunch (lite lunch provided)

## 2023 Volunteer Orientations

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Thursday, December 14, 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.

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

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## 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](mailto:info@somdhc.org).

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## 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 **\$19,261.00** 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](mailto:info@somdhc.org). We will come

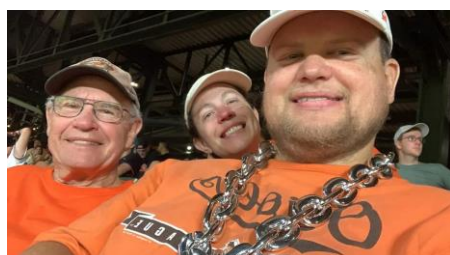
*PoC requires previous completion of CSOA as well as a minimum of 2 years Special Olympics coaching experience*

To register for any of these sessions, please complete this **online registration survey**.



## Athletes Support Local Teams

On July 14th, a number of SOHO athletes, friends and family members attended SOHO night at the Orioles-Marlins game and enjoyed both the win and the fireworks.



On July 31st, some athletes got to attend Ravens training camp. They met a number of Ravens players and Coach Harbaugh and got autographs.



## JTCC Special Olympics Tennis Program

Fall Tennis with JTCC is kicking off soon! SOMD is excited to continue this partnership with JTCC to provide an additional training opportunity for Special Olympics athletes.

Location: JTCC- 5200 Campus Dr, College Park, MD 20740  
Sundays from 4:30-6:00pm

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](mailto:info@somdhc.org)** and **[bobbaker@somdhc.org](mailto: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](mailto:info@somdhc.org).

Dates: 8/27, 9/3, 10, 17, 24, 10/1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 11/5

Pre-registration is REQUIRED! Register **Here:**

NOTE: You do not have to be registered in a fall tennis training program to participate. These sessions are open to all levels of play and tennis experience.

## Special Olympics Howard County

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Contact SOHO Today

