



Special Olympics Howard County

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Columbia, MD 21045

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[Contact SOHO Today](#)



June 2025 Newsletter - Issue #4

Important Changes to Athlete Medical Form

The current athlete medical form has been discontinued and is replaced by the new [U.S. Athlete Registration Form](#).

Important features of the new form:

- Physician signature NOT required for sports participation and competition within Maryland
- Physician signature required for events outside Maryland (e.g., national competitions)
- Medical questions are completed by parent/guardian/caregiver
- Waivers combined; only 1 signature needed
- Typed signatures are not accepted; electronic signatures such as DocuSign are accepted
- All old medical forms will expire on 12/31/2025
- The old medical form should no longer be used and will not be accepted after 6/30/2025
- All athletes must have the new form starting with the Winter 2026 sports season
- U.S. Athlete Registration Form is available on the SOHO website on the Become an Athlete page and on the Resources/Forms page
- New forms should be submitted to info@somdhc.org by 12/31/2025
- Thereafter, the U.S. Athlete Registration Form must be updated annually

Questions? Call the office at 410-740-0500 or send an email to info@somdhc.org



Inspiration Walk Wrap-Up

We want to thank everyone who came out to our 24th Annual Inspiration Walk. A fun time was had by all. Photos from the event can be seen at

<https://somdhc.smugmug.com/Events>. We raised over \$90,000 and want to thank our top fundraisers: Jason Kauffman, Jim and Theresa Bourdon, Evan Davis, Monica

Evans, Daniel Larrimore, and Sam Emmerling who raised \$21,731 of that amount. If you haven't yet donated, it's not too late. [Click here](#) or send a

Office Hours

Monday/Thursday 8:30 - 1:30

Tuesday 1:30 - 6:30

Volunteer Corner

Looking for a place to volunteer? Want to feel the joy of watching athletes with intellectual disabilities work hard and excel in the various sports? Need to earn Community Service Requirements for high school graduation or church requirements? Whether you are looking for a few hours a week or month or a larger commitment, whether you can help with administrative/office work, fundraising or want to work hands-on coaching the athletes, Special Olympics Howard County can use you! Parents are highly encouraged to attend an orientation.

If you're ready to dive in, check out our website for all the details on how to get started as a volunteer: [Become a Volunteer](#).

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Nissan Car Raffle- Buy Your Tickets Today!

SOMD is excited to open ticket sales for our Nissan Car Raffle! Tickets are being sold for \$10.00 (ONLINE SALES ONLY!) to win A Nissan Kicks

check to the office to help us meet our goal of \$100,000. The following individuals were honored at the walk for their dedication to our organization.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Our third **Lifetime Achievement Award** winner is an individual who has been involved with SOHO since 1992. She was one of the four individuals who saved the program from going dormant in the late 90's and has been all in as the Assistant Director ever since. There is NO ONE, and I truly mean no one, who has done more for Special Olympics Howard County over the past 30 years than **Marilyn Miceli**. She coined the name of the Inspiration Walk 24 years ago and led the IW planning team for the first 22 years! In 2014, she was elected into the Howard County Recreation and Parks Sports Hall of Fame for her work with Special Olympics. This year she has started to ease into retirement by weening herself from some of the many tasks she performs, but is still involved daily behind the scenes with administrative duties. Our athletes, families, volunteers and the Howard County community in general, are much better off because of her dedication, commitment and love for Special Olympics Howard County. Marilyn, we cannot thank you enough, congratulations!!



The **Family of the Year** for 2025 is the **Docal Family**. Athlete, Ory Docal, started participating in Special Olympics in 2015 and ever since then, he inspired his family to help in various ways at the many sports in which he participates. Mom, Debbie, is our 3v3 Traditional basketball coordinator and one of our track coaches. Ory's sister Maria is our Pickleball coordinator and

also helps at track. His sister, Theresa and her fiancé, Andrew Conine, are coaches for our 3v3 Traditional Basketball team and they also help at Track. Ory's dad, Orlando and sister Olivia have also helped as "day of" volunteers at our track meets. Volunteering with SOHO is truly a family affair!

The **Volunteer of the Year** is **Cole Schnorf**. He has volunteered in various roles since 2003. A member of the Executive Management Team, he also serves as the Fundraising Coordinator, Over the Edge planning committee, and head coach of the 5x5 player development basketball team. Father to athlete Julia, Cole and his wife Joan also established the Schnorf Family Scholarship for Outstanding Student Volunteer in 2018. Thank you, Cole, for your dedicated service to SOHO.



AWD (\$27,000 toward the purchase of one) or \$22,000 cash.

This is a collaborative fundraiser! Individuals purchasing tickets can designate our area program from the drop down to receive 70% of sale of that ticket. Tickets can be purchased [here](#)

Oops!

Our apologies that the 5x5PD basketball team photo was missing from their article last month.



SOHO Merchandise Store

Want to show your Special Olympics spirit by proudly sporting SOHO gear? Looking for a gift for your athlete or family supporters? Check out the new Special Olympics Howard County online merchandise store! Items available include hoodies, jackets, backpacks, hats and much more. To order, [click here](#). We also have some SOHO baseball hats for sale. They are \$10.00 each and can be purchased at the office. We also have some folding chairs and rain ponchos on hand. These items can be purchased at the SOHO office. Stop by during office hours to see samples of some items.





The **Coach of the Year, Bob Muller**, has served as our golf skills coach for the past 12 years, organizing practices for up to 60 golfers a season and introducing them to the sport of golf. He also recruits new coaches each season and has helped at various fundraising events over the years. This individual does not have an athlete that participates in our program which makes all the hours he gives even more special. Thanks, Bob, for making our golf skills program so successful.

Spring Competitions



Bocce: Bocce weekend occurred on May 17th and May 18th. Howard County hosted their home qualifier on Saturday, May 17th. We then went to Montgomery County for their qualifier at Landan School on May 18th. Good Bocce fun was had by all. To top it off, SOHO hosted another home qualifier on June 7th!

Athletics

On Sunday, May 18th, our athletics team attended the Montgomery County Track and Field Qualifier at The Landon School in Bethesda. Thirty-five athletes competed in the all-day event and for many of them, it was a first-ever competition experience! By all accounts a good time was had by all! This is by far the largest group of athletes who have ever participated, and we are so proud of all the work that everyone has done! Thank you coaches and volunteers for all your hard work and support! We couldn't do this without you!!!



2025 Law Enforcement Torch Run

This year's **Law Enforcement Torch Run** took place on Friday, June 6th at Western Regional Park. Five SOHO athletes were deputized by five Howard County law enforcement agencies as

they participated in this year's Torch Run. SOHO Director Bob Baker thanked the law enforcement community for partnering with Special Olympics over the past 30 years by attending competitions, awarding medals, serving as honor guards at events and having raised an amazing amount of money

Howard County Seeks Applicants for the Commission on Disabilities

Howard County Executive Calvin Ball is seeking applicants with disabilities to serve on the [Commission on Disabilities](#) and enhance our efforts to be a welcoming and inclusive community. The deadline to apply for this vacancy is July 7, 2025. For details and eligibility requirements, click [here](#).

Discounted MinuteClinic Physicals

Special Olympics has continued their nation-wide partnership with MinuteClinic! Click [here](#) for the voucher for discounted physical exams at all MinuteClinics.



OUR 2024 OVER THE EDGE SPONSORS

Many thanks to our corporate sponsors who are critical in helping us put on this exciting event!

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through the Torch Run and Torch Run events. Over the past 27 years, over 120 different athletes have represented SOHO and been deputized. This year, the athletes being deputized and participating in the Torch Run were Mackenzie Campbell (HC Police Department), Matt Dukes (HC Sheriff's Office), Kyle Lucey (HC State's Attorney's Office), Cristina Meza (HC Department of Corrections), and Kate Moschel (HC Maryland State Police). Additional Photos of the event can be found [here](#) and [here](#).



Andrew Chen

Isaiah Cooper



Ethan Tapia

Sydney Wood

Outstanding Student Volunteer Scholarship Recipients

We are proud to announce the recipients of our Outstanding Student Volunteers for 2025. These scholarships are made possible through the generosity of three families. **Sydney Wood** (Glenelg Country School) was awarded the **Jackie Burk Memorial Scholarship**. She was a multi-sport volunteer in Distance Running, Bowling, Athletics and also was an Inspiration Walk Volunteer for a total of 303 hours. Sydney will attend Penn State University and major in Secondary Education. Receiving the **Allan Homes Scholarship** is **Andrew Chen** (River Hill High School) who will

attend Carnegie Mellon School of Engineering. Andrew volunteered 213 hours with the swimming program. **Ethan Tapia** (Long Reach High School) was awarded the **Schnorf Family Scholarship** and plans to major in kinesiology at the University of Maryland. Ethan volunteered 245 hours in 5x5 Player Development basketball, Bowling and Volleyball. Finally, **Isaiah Cooper** (Glenelg Country School) received the **Director's Scholarship**. Isaiah volunteered 210 hours in the athletics, bowling and swimming programs. He will attend Washington University in St. Louis as a student in the Beyond Boundaries Program.

Our student volunteers are an integral part of our program. We congratulate these outstanding student volunteers and wish them all the best at college.



Oriole Family Evening at the Yard

Join us for Special Olympics Howard County day at Camden Yards on Saturday, July 12th at 4:05pm, when the Orioles will play the Marlins. Gates open at 2:00pm and the first 20,000 fans will receive a **free Birdland Hawaiian shirt!** Tickets are first come, first served so don't wait to purchase your ticket(s); cost is \$38.50 each. Seats are in section 75. To order your tickets, contact the office at 410-740-0500 or send an email to info@somdhc.org. Payment must be received by June 30. Checks can be made out to Special Olympics Howard County or pay over the phone via

STREET FESTIVAL SPONSORS

Apple Ford
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Any business/corporation that is interested in being a **2025 Over the Edge Sponsor** should contact the office at 410-740-0500 for sponsorship details. We hope those businesses above will continue as a sponsor this year and that some new businesses will consider joining this exciting event!

Medical Support Needed - Find Out More

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. If you think you may be interested, contact our Medical Coordinator, Jackie Miller, at chitchat1955@gmail.com.

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 **\$19,981.00** in donations! If you have a car you would like to donate, please use this [link](#) and select Howard County as the recipient of the funds.

Photos of Our Athletes

You can enjoy photos of our athletes at practice, competitions and other events on our photo [page](#).

Newsletter Information

credit card. To receive tickets, you must have the MLB app on your phone. Hard copy tickets are NOT available. On game day, entry to the ballpark is via the MLB app on your phone. Note that parking is not included and chaperones are not provided.

SOMD Day at the Baysox

Come out on Saturday, June 14th, when the Baysox will play the Harrisburg Senators on SOMD Day. at Prince George's Stadium. This game is also Star Wars Night where visitors can meet dozens of Star Wars characters, watch lightsaber battles and interact with exhibits! After the game there will be fireworks for all to enjoy!

PLUS SOMD will have a very special parade around the field before the game. To be included in the parade, you must arrive by 5:30pm!

Gates will open at 5:15pm. Pre-game ceremonies begin approximately 6:00pm. Baysox game time is 6:35pm.

Seating for this event is GENERAL ADMISSION. Open bench seating with backs will be available on both the right and left field sides of the Stadium. Because seating is General Admission, the seat number listed on your order is strictly for tracking purposes and does not preassign you a specific location. You will be able to choose your own seats upon entry. Your tickets are valid for the game date they are purchased only and may not be exchanged for another date. ALL SALES ARE FINAL.

PLEASE NOTE: All Baysox concession stands are CASHLESS, meaning payment will need to be made by credit or debit card, mobile tap or Baysox Bucks. Cash will not be accepted.

To Get Tickets- <https://www.gofevo.com/event/Specialolympics685>

This opportunity is open to ALL SOMD Athletes, Unified Partners, Coaches, Volunteers, Families and Supporters! Let's fill the stands and support the Chesapeake Baysox!

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.