



Special Olympics Virginia Loudoun Area 14

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About Us

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Our Mission

To provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

Game On! is published three times each year by Special Olympics Virginia—Loudoun.

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Green Option

Email us at Caitlin.marcotte@loudoun.gov to receive your newsletter by email instead of through the mail.



Fall 2014

Calendar

- Jan 10: Basketball Tournament
- Feb 28: Polar Plunge
- Feb TBD: Casino Night Fundraiser

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

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COMING SOON!

Enjoy a fun adults only evening out at our newest fundraising event - Casino Night which will be scheduled for February 2015.

Food, fun and cash free gambling games and prizes to be won!

Tell your friends.

GAME On!

Special Olympics Virginia—Loudoun

JP's Law

JP's Law passed at the 2014 Virginia General Assembly. This new law in the Commonwealth of Virginia allows individuals to VOLUNTARILY add a code to a driver's license or DMV identification card noting that the individual has autism or an intellectual disability. This enables law enforcement officials to be more aware of an individual's diagnosis and, as a result, better respond to their unique abilities and limitations.

If you'd like to have this code added to your identification card or driver's license, gather the following items and visit a DMV location:

- Birth certificate
- Proof of residency (parents of minors may present their ID and proof of residency to certify their child's Virginia residency).
- A statement from the doctor stating the individual applying for the specialized "JP's Law" driver's license or identification card has an official diagnosis of autism or an intellectual disability.
- Complete the application upon arrival. If applying for a driver's license, you will need your social security number.
- \$10 is the cost to get or have an existing ID reissued. \$20 is the cost to have a driver's license reissued with the new indicator.
- If you are getting a driver's license for the first time, you must pass the standard driving tests before the "JP's Law" indicator can be noted on your driver's license.

New in 2015

Thanks to our new fundraising chair (see her message on page 3), 2015 promises to be an exciting fundraising year for SOVAL.

We will continue with some favorite events such as the annual golf tournament, the Polar Plunge, and the Plane Pull, but we will also be introducing some exciting and fun new events including a Casino night.

We are also excited to be adding more sports too. Powerlifting has several athletes excited and you can read on page 3 how the soccer program is booming and growing along with Bocce which now has two teams.



Resources for Athletes

Have you checked out the Special Olympics Virginia website lately? The state level website has a resources page with an Athletes section. This page has links to many things to help athletes including "The Journey to Life After High School: A Road Map for Parents of Children with Special Needs."

<http://specialolympicsva.org/sports/athlete-resource>

PLANE PULL TITLE



We had a glorious day for the plane pull and our team did an amazing job. Out of more than 60 participating teams, we pulled that gigantic plane over the line in 6.909 seconds and came in 27th place. That is spectacular!

Well done Supersonics! Together we not only had an awesome time but we raised a whopping \$2735 for Special Olympics Virginia— Loudoun just by having fun.

Bowling

Bowling is preparing for the state tournament on November 8th and 9th. We are sending two teams, Team 1: Warren Carter, Cassie Hutson, Amy Jo Heying, and Amy Loudenbeck, and Team 2: Cassie Albert, Carissa Delitta, Tommy Kirby, and Stacy Todd.

EQUESTRIAN FUN DAY

Ride on Ranch has once again hosted an Equestrian Fun Day complete with special activities to showcase our SOVAL horse riders. Our Equestrian program is very popular and demand to participate exceeds the limited slots available, so it was with great pride that our SOVAL team showed off their horse riding skills during the Fun Day show.

We would love to expand this program to meet the huge demand but are in need of another coach. If you are interested contact us at Caitlin.Marcotte@loudoun.gov.

And we'd also like to give huge thanks to Autumn O'Hara of Ride On Ranch who makes this fabulous program happen for SOVAL.



JOIN US IN THE 2015 POLAR PLUNGE

GO TO WWW.SOVALLOUDOUN.ORG TO SIGN UP OR SPONSOR OUR TEAM



Brambleton Kids Triathlon—Sept 2014. Way to go Team!

Council Corner: Letter from Karin Aaron, Fundraising



Hello all, greetings to you My name is Karin Aaron and I am your new fundraising chair for Area 14!

I am a long time Loudoun resident and have spent the last seven years developing the sports market at Visit Loudoun! I have been on the council since Spring 2014 and I am thrilled to be involved in the many fundraising activities and events we have planned for you! 2015 is going to be an exciting time to build awareness, raise money and have FUN!! Activities will include will include Casino nights, Volunteerism, Pet Events and more so lets get ready to make 2015 the best year yet!

If you would like to volunteer or have a fundraising idea or suggestions, please contact me at fundraising@pecialolympicsloudoun.org. Happy holidays and I'll see you in 2015!

VOLUNTEER

Special Olympics is on the fast track and we need your help. If you are unable to make a long-term commitment, but can manage to volunteer for an hour or two, or make a financial donation of any amount, let us know by contacting Caitlin Marcotte, Area Coordinator, at (703) 777-0438.

Did you know?

All donations enable our athletes to compete free of charge and fund our sports so fundraising is critical to the ongoing success of our programs. Please [donate](#) and show your support at our fundraising events. Every dollar counts!

Thank you to everyone who volunteered at the Plane Pull. We raised approximately \$2500 and had fun at the same time. Why not join us next year!

Bocce

Bocce-Sterling has been going great since late August. We have a small group, so the athletes get tons of playing time. We are focusing on doubles team play, and will be sending one team to States this year from our group. Jake Benish and Greg Voldish were chosen, so please cheer for them in November at the Virginia Beach Fall Championships.

Bocce at Shoes in Leesburg was again a great time had by all. With 17 athletes participating over the season we overcame, rain, wind and darkness to persevere and have FUN. Thanks to all the athletes, coaches, parents and transportation for making it happen.



SOCCER

The soccer program has grown to triple the size this season with practices averaging over 30 athletes each week. Unfortunately, the season has been rainy resulting in the cancellation of our Columbus Day tournament, but October 25th we took two teams to the Paul VI Tournament. It was our first games of the season and last before the state games.

Tyler Touve was a fearless goalie making several saves for the team. Andres Sincek had a hattrick in the second game, complemented by Alex Burn's two goals and great team work. Jamie Spiering scored two goals for the second Loudoun team. Kate Hughes and Danielle Himmel played goalie. Sam Mason and Daniel Russel helped the team with their defense skills.

State games are in early November where we will be taking one team for 7-vs-7 competition. Next year we are looking forward to having a larger soccer program and hoping to recruit volunteer coaches so we can have multiple teams!

