



# SPECIAL OLYMPICS UTAH

SPORTS FOR ATHLETES OF ALL ABILITIES



## Thank you, Michelle!

For the past four years, SOUT has been fortunate to have **Michelle Wolfenbarger** as the Chair of our Board of Directors. All good things must end, and Michelle's term on the Board of Directors will conclude on December 31, 2023.

Michelle's service on the Board began in 2017, and during her two three-year terms, she served as the Board Chair twice. As the Board Chair, she led the organization through some challenging times, and despite that, she always focused on the athletes and the mission.





When not in the Board room taking on the exciting governance responsibility, Michelle could be found helping at team practices, lending a hand at Area and State events, supporting SOUT's assorted fundraisers, and representing the organization at national meetings and events. She was instrumental in helping to establish Dance as an official SOUT sport; she took the lead in creating the Athlete Leadership Council and has been instrumental in the growth and success of the Black & White Bocce Ball. If there was a Special Olympics Utah event taking place, Michelle was there. Her presence and enthusiasm were everywhere!

**Michelle's time as a board member may be up, but her support of SOUT's athletes will continue for years. Her leadership and positive impact have been truly appreciated and will forever be a highlight in the history of Special Olympics Utah. Thank you, Michelle!**

## Dine to Donate at Slapfish November 30th with Law Enforcement Torch Run for SOUT!



Enjoy your favorite **Slapfish** dishes and meet local Law Enforcement Officers. All Tip-A-Cop donations will support the athletes of Special Olympics Utah. Athletes and Officers serve as "Celebrity Servers" at all 4 locations on Thursday, November 30th from 4pm - 8pm. Visit Farmington, Lehi, Sandy or Park City! If you're unable to visit a location, donate below!

**DONATE**





## Introducing...

# UCS BANNER SCHOOLS

Special Olympics Utah is excited to recognize eight schools that have met the ten standards of excellence to become a National Unified Champion Schools Banner School! Schools that have accomplished banner school status have demonstrated commitment to inclusion. They have met and exceeded ten standards of excellence through sport, student leadership and engaging everybody in school activities. These eight schools are Lone Peak High School, Orem High School, Murray High School, Hunter High School, Woods Cross High School, Copper Hills High School, and Riverton High School, and continuing their commitment to inclusion is Skyridge High School.

**This month, the spotlight shines on Woods Cross High School.**

"Woods Cross High School gives inclusive opportunities to kids with disabilities that involve sports, clubs, leadership development, and friendships. Here at WX, we have become a



family with those around us. We embrace our differences by coming together in our shared love and passions. Many of those passions are embraced through the school, but many are carried outside of school. Some kids are on TV, others play sports, and all are welcome. We have a saying that "Everybody is Somebody," and here that is true. No matter who you are or what you look like you deserve to be here."

SOUT wants to congratulate Woods Cross and all the other high schools on their accomplishments and commitment to inclusion!

**Contact [WORTHEN@SOUT.ORG](mailto:WORTHEN@SOUT.ORG) to get your school involved in Unified Sports!**



*Take the Plunge!*

**REGISTER HERE!**

January 20th | North Ogden

January 20th | Salt Lake

February 3rd | Cedar City

February 10th | Park City Winter Fest

March 8th | Hyrum Lake





## The 2023 Fall Sports Classic 'Eclipsed' All Others!



A little Eclipse couldn't darken our spirits and keep us from having the most fantastic event. Everyone had a great time at the 2023 Fall Sports Classic! We started with a fun and entertaining Opening Ceremony, dance, and dinner!

On Saturday, athletes competed in Bocce, Golf, Soccer, and Young Athletes and enjoyed check-ups at Healthy Athletes.

We served 612 athletes and Unified Partners, 78 Coaches, and HOD from 28 Delegations from throughout Utah. We appreciate the Coaches, HOD, and staff for their daily support.

Our thanks go out to the more than 60 volunteers who helped from beginning to end, setting up and taking down Bocce courts, scorekeeping, serving meals, assisting with games and Awards, and so much more. Kudos!

Many thanks to our Annual Sponsors and Donors who helped SOUT make it happen. We are looking forward to many more great events in the future.

## Year-Round Topgolf!

Year-round TopGolf, we had a pleasant season of giving provided by our TopGolf partners. Too Golf Championships will take place at the Midvale TopGolf on March 30, 2023. Contact to plan your weekly practice at TopGolf, in addition Top Golf is a great supporter of SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETES, especially ones like Kyle B. of the Hartvigsen Team, who has dedicated years of service to the cleanliness of the Midvale TopGolf.



## Coach Spotlight, Nikol Jensen!

Many words can be said when it comes to highlighting Nikol. She is an extremely accomplished person, Hartvigsen Coach, and caregiver. Many people might also say she is one of the most passionate, giving people we know!



She is a full-time caregiver to her nephew Chays, who you can see swimming around the pool or knocking down pins at the bowling alley. Chays was what originally drove Nikol to find Special Olympics. Now, many years later she has taken all the Hartvigsen athletes under her wings and now coaches year-round in a variety of sports

i.e. swimming, bocce, snowshoeing, and bowling. Nikol, Thank you for your continued support of Special Olympics Utah and our athletes! The world is a better place with you in it! HOD stated " I just wanted to let you know that you are one of my favorite people. I am so glad to know you and love to see your love for our athletes! Thanks so much for making us all better people with your positive outlook!"..."she loves the athletes and helps them strive to be their best. She coaches 110% because of the athletes. She starts her practices by having the athletes state one good thing and ends practice with a fun activity." thank you Nikol!

Thank you to the many volunteers who supported and interacted with our athletes. We could not have done it without you. A special thanks To Bonwood Bowling Lanes and their staff for continued support of Special Olympics Utah. We appreciate being able to count on you year after year.

## Athlete Spotlight, Jeremy Duffin!

Jeremy Duffin has been a Special Olympics athlete since 2014, starting out with the West Valley City Panthers and is now a member of the St. George Trailblazers. Jeremy's favorite event is basketball as he imagines himself on the court, dribbling alongside his beloved Utah Jazz heroes. Jeremy also participates in snowshoeing, track & field, bowling and bocce ball. He gets so excited for practices and counts down the days to each event.

Jeremy loves spending time with his teammates. He is a friend who is always there, a teammate



who lifts others up, and a competitor who pushes you to be your best. His warmth and genuine care for others make him a treasure to have in our sporting community.



# Volunteer Spotlight

**Judge Memorial HS students** come out during their fall break to help out the SOUT office to load the trailer, sort metals, conduct inventory, prepare packets and credentials for the Fall Sports Classic. We are so



thankful to have wonderful members of the community help in the process of managing games!



**Strong and Hanni Law Firm** joined us Friday afternoon to set up our "DKJ" sponsored courts at Northwest Middle School in a record breaking hour and a half for 16 courts, this is our first full season of using the inflatable " " bocce courts, I hope you all love them even more than we do!

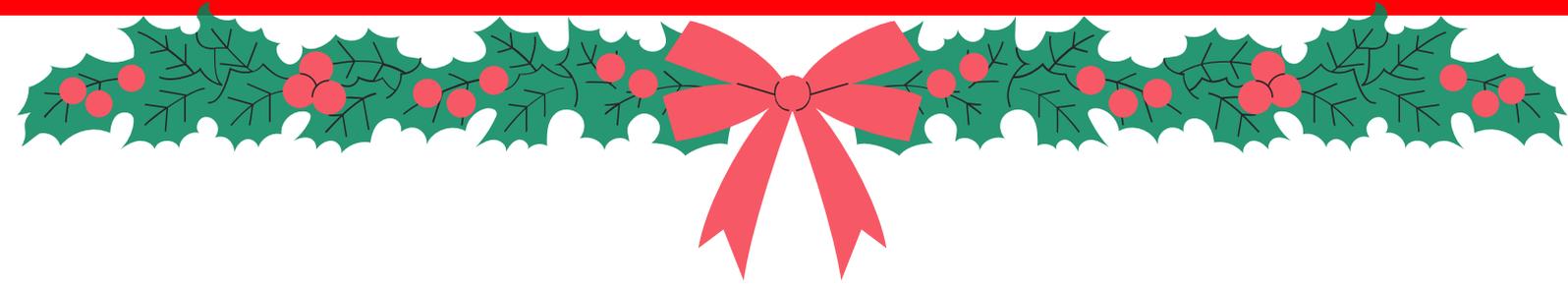
## Volunteer here:

- January 23rd, UCS Utah County Basketball Tournament
  - January 29th, UCS Cache Valley Unified Basketball Tournament
  - January 30th, UCS SLC Unified Basketball Tournament
  - January 31st, UCS Weber County Unified Basketball Tournament
- >> Email Boston@sout.org<<**

### Polar Plunge 2023

- January 20th, North Ogden
- January 20th, Salt Lake
- February 3rd, Cedar City
- February 10th, Park City
- March 8th, Cache Valley

**>> Volunteer Here <<**



## Young Athletes Program for ages 2-8 yo

Calling all parents, teachers, coaches, and athletes! We would love to start some more Young Athletes groups throughout the state! We have run one successful Young Athletes group in Sandy, Utah, and it is so fun! Young Athletes is a group for kids ages 2-7 to meet for one hour for eight weeks to work on mobility skills such as walking, running, throwing, kicking, and more. This program can also be adapted for children ages 7-12 and other children who are in school or who need a bit more help in developing mobility skills due to intellectual and developmental disabilities.



**Contact Julia  
at**

**[jtateoka@sout.org](mailto:jtateoka@sout.org)**

**if you would  
like to lead,**

**participate, or**

**help out with the**

**Young Athletes Program**

**in any way!**



## Free Park Services for People with Intellectual Disabilities!

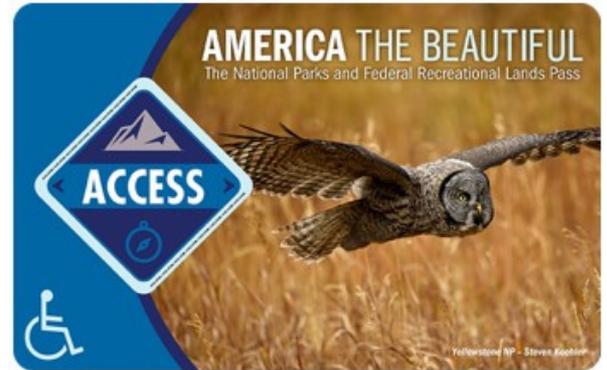
Did you know the National Park Service (NPS) offers a free, lifetime pass to people with permanent disabilities? A free, lifetime pass - available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the United States who have been medically determined to have a permanent disability (does not have to be a 100% disability) - that provides admittance to more than 2,000 recreation sites managed by six Federal agencies!

To qualify for the pass, you must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident and have a permanent disability that limits one or more of your major life activities. You can provide documentation of your disability from a doctor, a federal agency, or a state agency.

The Access Pass is a great way to enjoy the outdoors without having to worry about paying admission fees. You can use it to visit your favorite national parks, go hiking or camping, or take a walk in the woods. If you or someone you know has a disability, we encourage you to apply for the Access Pass. It's a great way to save money and enjoy the many benefits that our national parks have to offer.

**What Can You Do with the Access Pass?**

The Access Pass provides free admission to over 2,000 federal recreation sites, including national parks, national wildlife refuges, and national forests. Access Pass also provides a 50% discount on camping fees and other amenity fees.



This can save you a lot of money if you plan on doing a lot of camping or other activities that require a fee.

*How Long Does the Access Pass Last?*

The Access Pass is valid for a lifetime. This means that you can use it to enjoy free admission to national parks for as long as you live.

*How to Apply for the Access Pass*

To apply for the Access Pass, visit the NPS website or download a paper application form. You will need to provide your name, address, date of birth, and Social Security number. You will also need to provide documentation of your disability. Once you have submitted your application, the NPS will review it and send you a decision letter. If your application is approved, you will receive your Access Pass in the mail. Please note that while the pass is free to those with a disability, there is a \$10 processing fee.

*If You Have Any Questions*

If you have any questions about the Access Pass, you can contact the NPS at (888) 732-7275. They will be happy to answer your questions and help you apply for the pass.



## Upcoming Events: December & January

### December

15 Hoop A Round Basketball Clinic Delta Center

### January

6 Cross Country & Snowshoe Coaches Training 12227 S. Business Park Dr. Draper  
10 UCS Middle School Coach Meeting [Zoom](#), 3pm - 4pm  
10 Basketball Coaches Training TBD  
13 Dance Coaches Training TBD  
17 Topgolf Coaches Training Topgolf Midvale, 6pm - 8pm  
17 UCS College Coach Meeting [Zoom](#), 5pm - 6pm  
19 Ken Garff Esports Metro Event Taylorsville,  
20 St, George Healthy Athletes Clinic TBD  
20 North Ogden Polar Plunge North Shore Aquatic Center Ogden  
20 Salt Lake Polar Plunge Daybreak "Winter Freeze Fest"  
23 UCS Utah County Basketball Tournament Juab High  
29 UCS Cache Valley Unified Bball Tournament Ridgeline High  
30 UCS SLC Unified Basketball Tournament Murray High  
30 UCS PD: Unified Clubs [Zoom](#), 3pm - 4pm  
31 UCS Weber County Unified Bball Tournament Ogden

For more information on any of these events, call, 801-363-1111

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**Special  
Olympics**  
Utah

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