3-on-3 Basketball
This is a great athlete and team development sport played on a half-court allowing athletes and coaches to focus on basic basketball skills.

Important Dates
Sept. 22 Register to be an athlete or unified partner for all sports
Oct. 13-14 Fall Sports classic register to be a volunteer

Soccer in Fall and at a NEW venue!
We are thrilled to stage soccer at the Regional Athletic Complex in Salt Lake City.

Bocce
This traditional Italian sport is a favorite of athletes of all ages and abilities.
Score keepers needed. Sign up today to volunteer!

Golf
Athletes can play both individual rounds and rounds with a sports partner. Start an athlete on this lifetime sport or consider becoming a sports partner.

For questions on becoming an athlete, unified partner or volunteer, call 801-363-1111 or email information@sout.org
Ivan Obed Yin  Athlete of the Year, 2016

In 2014, Ivan tried out for his high school soccer team, but was not selected. His heart was broken because he loved soccer, but his mother told him “Don’t give up. Keep fighting.” Then his special education teacher encouraged him to do the Unified Sports soccer team at their high school. He played goalie for the Hillcrest Unified Soccer Team and then he tried out for new RSL Unified Team. The Monarch coaches picked him as goalie. Ivan credits his parents for giving him hope, his special education teacher for guiding him, and his coaches for helping him improve as an athlete. His teammates and coaches say about him: “Ivan is not just an athlete, he is the spirit of the team. He cares about all his teammates and cheers them up and cheers them on telling them ‘Stay golden and live with no regrets!’”

John Larsen  Community Coach of the Year, 2016

John Larsen has been involved with Special Olympics Utah since his brother Brian was 8 and John was 11. John’s first role was as a hugger at the finish line. In later years John became Brian’s coach and has been for 15 years. When John sees someone who could benefit from Special Olympics he tells them about it and encourages them to try it. Parents and caregivers note athletes are encouraged by John and turn to him for strength. One of those times was when they lost a fellow athlete and teammate Rick one week before the State Games. Following the Games, John took the Team to see Rick’s family and presented Rick’s mother with the gold medal the team won for Rick. John considered taking a break from coaching, but after watching a Special Olympics basketball game and seeing the athletes try no matter their disability he said, “I just could not walk away from Special Olympics.”

Jenna Holland  Unified Coach of the Year, 2016

Jenna Holland has been involved with Special Olympics Utah for 13 years. She has played soccer her entire life and dedicated hours to learning the skills of coaching soccer. In 2016, SO Utah started a partnership with Real Salt Lake to create an RSL Unified Soccer Team. The athletes and sports partners were selected in tryouts and Jenna was selected as Head Coach due to her years of experience with SO Utah and her soccer coaching skills. Jenna takes her responsibilities of being a coach seriously because she wants to give the players—both athletes and unified partners—a chance to become better players and individuals. She challenges the players to: “Give your best, be your best and become messengers for acceptance and inclusion for individuals with intellectual disabilities.”

Jared Bruton  Unified Partner of the Year, 2016

Jared Bruton, from Duchesne, Utah, was a runner in high school competing in hurdles and relays. While studying at BYU some of his fellow classmates learned about his track background and asked him to help with the Special Olympics BYU track team. The athletes wanted to do a Unified 4 x 100 relay and Jared was asked to be one of the Unified Partners. Jared helped the athletes learn handoffs for the relay and was “blown away at how quickly they learned!” He served four years as a Unified Sports Partner for the 4 x 100 relay and later for Unified basketball. When asked what he would say to encourage someone to be a sports partner he said: “Being a sports partner gives you even more respect of the athletes. When you compete with them you see them inside the sport; you see the fun they have and their love of sport.”


Every Law Enforcement Torch Run has its own flavor based on the community. In San Juan County Deputy Sheriff Cal Black keeps the Flame of Hope alive with the support of a community with a large heart. Officer Black helps the athletes order Torch Run shirts and finds an officer on duty to do traffic control and then Officer Black lights the Torch and he and all the athletes walk to the High School for the South Area Track and Field meet. When asked why he cares so much about keeping the Flame of Hope alive he said: “The High School has all the students come out and line the street for the Torch Run. As we top the hill to the High School the athletes hold their heads just a little higher and walk a little faster because they are so excited to have the High School cheer for them; and that is what the Flame of Hope is all about.”
**Summer of Inclusion and Leadership**

Special Olympics is about sports training and competition and inclusion and leadership in all forms. The summer of 2017 provided many opportunities in these areas.

**June**

**The Summer Games** highlighted athletes in traditional and unified athletics (track & field), softball, and swimming. The Opening Ceremony was kicked off with the arrival of the Flame of Hope carried by an athlete. Athletes with Uintah Dinos and Basin Raptors were recognized for winning the Champions Campaign which involves outreach and education in the community. Awards for outstanding leadership were presented (see page two).

**July**

**Legends Night:** Athletes were invited to be part of Legends Night at the Orem Owlz Game and sign autographs with sports legends of BYU. Five athletes were thrilled to give autographs.

**Manchester United at Real Salt Lake:** Owner of Real Salt Lake, Dell Loy Hansen provided Utah the rare opportunity to see Real Salt Lake play Manchester United. In a last minute invitation from Manchester United four Special Olympics Utah athletes served as escorts to Manchester United players.

We appreciate these sports teams creating these inclusive opportunities for our athletes.

**August**

**UHSAA Dare2Lead Conference:** Special Olympics Utah partners with the Utah High School Activities Association (UHSAA) to bring Unified Sports to high schools across the State. In August, two student athletes from each high school were invited to attend and grow their leadership skills. This was the first year that it was a Unified event and special education students were also invited to attend. These students are part of a new generation of leaders who know what it means to Live Unified!

**PGA, Utah Section, Utah Open:** Special Olympics Utah is the Charity of Choice for the Utah Open Pro-Ams and Tournament Proper. This year for the four days of Pro-Ams athletes were invited to be on hole 17 to share with the golfers their sports experiences. Athletes are encouraged to show leadership by telling their stories.
Sponsor and Donor Shout-Out!

For 23 years, Harmon’s Neighborhood Grocer has supported Special Olympics Utah with the “Go for the Gold” campaign in all their stores during the month of March to raise funds for Special Olympics Utah. Our athletes join the Harmon team in several events to raise awareness about Special Olympics. Harmon is our Presenting Sponsor and it is a tradition that Bob Harmon comes to the Opening Ceremonies of the Summer Games and presents a check for the total funds raised during March. Our heartfelt thanks to the Harmon family and team and all the Harmon customers for your support over the years!

An anonymous donor made it possible to provide regional invitational bowling tournaments this summer for our athletes. We extend our deep gratitude for this generous gift! A good time was had by all.

Fall is a Ball. Come Join Us!
The Black and White Bocce Ball!

Come play bocce with our athletes at this fun event. There is still time to buy a ticket. Learn more at www.sout.org or call 801-363-1111. Come Play!

Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the founder of Special Olympics, loved sports and believed everyone could participate in sport anytime. With the kick-off of football season we honor the founder with this great photo. Pick up a ball and Play Unified!

A Historical Moment

Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the founder of Special Olympics, loved sports and believed everyone could participate in sport anytime. With the kick-off of football season we honor the founder with this great photo. Pick up a ball and Play Unified!