

SPECIAL OLYMPICS UTAH

SPORTS FOR ATHLETES OF ALL ABILITIES



SOUT Board Embraces Unified Leadership

New Sports Season

Polar Plunge

Spotlight

Events

And More

The Board of Directors comprises 22 volunteers who provide leadership and governance oversight of Special Olympics Utah. For the first time in the organization's 52-year history, we proudly announce that a SOUT athlete will serve as the Co-Chair on the Board of Directors. SOUT athlete Kyle Karren will join Dan Alldridge as the organization's volunteer leader.

Alldridge's involvement in Special Olympics dates back to before he was born. Dan was lucky to be born to two parents who worked for Special Olympics. He has enjoyed being involved locally in Illinois, Wisconsin, California, and Utah and getting much exposure to Special Olympics at the International level.



When asked what their favorite sport was, Karren replied, Soccer and it was through the sport that he created a soccer family with his teammates over the years. When not on the soccer pitch, Kyle can be found on the pickleball court, fine-tuning his skills in a new sport he is passionate about.

When asked the same question, Alldridge replied, "I love being able to go watch powerlifting. The athletes are on a platform and have the crowd all to themselves. There is always a ton of energy at the event; the more the athlete leans into that, the more the crowd cheers. It's a great representation of putting the athletes in the spotlight, allowing them to perform, and giving them well-deserved cheers."

Both Karren and Alldridge were asked what excites them about serving on the Board of Directors. Dan responded, "I have had a great few years on the Special Olympics Utah Board. While I've

Enjoyed being a coach, Unified Partner, and volunteer throughout my life, being on the Board has allowed me to work with the athletes to shape an organization that best serves their needs. Kyle noted that this role is new to him and the organization, so he was excited to see what he and Dan could do as Co-Chairs and was confident that through their combined effort, they would keep SOUT moving forward.

In closing, both were asked what they would like SOUT to accomplish during their term as the board Co-Chairs. Dan stated, "The biggest goal from an event perspective would be having a full-fledged winter sports program return because we are a sports organization. However, the more meaningful accomplishment would be to help accelerate our athlete leadership program.

This organization was established for athletes, and we've been moving into a phase of an organization being run with athletes, yet I'd love to see the day when we have an organization run by athletes for athletes. Our job as the Board is to understand what the athletes need regarding support and how we can best equip them with the tools to succeed. Kyle echoed Dan's thoughts, stating he "would like to have the board take on the challenge of having SOUT athletes treated more like players of their sport instead of athletes with intellectual disabilities.

Kyle and Dan's commitment to the mission and athlete leadership is evident, and we are excited to have them both as champions of Unified Leadership.



Introducing... the NEW Sports Seasons!



2024 SPORTS SAVE THE DATES

TENTATIVE

JANUARY

6 - Cross Country Ski Coach Training
13 - Dance Coaches Training
16 - Basketball Coaches Training
17 - Topgolf Coaches Training

FEBRUARY

13 - Swim Coaches Training

MARCH

*7 - Winter Games
(Cross Country & Snowshoeing)
*22 & 23 - Basketball Tournament
*30 - Topgolf Championship

APRIL

4 - Athletics Coaches Training
*4 - Alpine Ski Race & Young
Athletes Ski Experience
*13 - Dance Competition

MAY

8 - Bowling Coaches Training
31 - Cheer Coaches Training

JUNE

*7 & 8 - Summer Games
(Athletics, Swim and Soccer)
12 - Flag Football Coaches Training
20 - Cycling Coaches Training

JULY

13 - Golf Coaches Training
17 - Topgolf Coaches Training

AUGUST

*9 & 10 - Summer Sports Fest
(Bowling, Cycling, and Softball)
22 - Bocce Coaches Training

SEPTEMBER

*14 - Golf Competition

OCTOBER

NO SOUT Events



SOUT Event Calendar

NOVEMBER

*1 & 2 - Fall Sports Classic
(Bocce, Cheer, and Flag Football)

END OF 2024
COMPETITIONS

AREA MANAGER:

JAY DEE- SOUTHAREA@SOUT.ORG
YOLANDA- METROAREA@SOUT.ORG
FRANK- CROWTHER@SOUT.ORG
NORTHAREA@SOUT.ORG

DIRECTOR OF SPORTS:

TAYLOR SMITH - TSMITH@SOUT.ORG

(*) Indicates a SOUT competition

Rearranging the Sports

The start of the new year ignites a passion to strive for greatness; however, we must be willing to change and grow to achieve greatness. Part of the change and development you will see this year at SOUT is our sports season.

Our first competition 2024 will be the Winter Games, **Cross Country Ski**, and **Snowshoe**, on March 7. March continues to be busy with two other stand-alone competitions, **Basketball** on the 22 & 23 and **Topgolf** on March 30. We can't think of a better way to start the first quarter 2024! April brings spring flowers, but SOUT **Dance** will bloom on the 13th.

For the most exciting change, Summer Games in June will have **Athletics**, **Swim**, and **SOCCER** competitions. Looking ahead, the 2025-2027 Summer Games will take place at Southern Utah University. What happened to cycling and softball, you ask? In August 2024, we look forward to our Summer Sports Fest. Summer Sports Fest will include **Bowling**, **Cycling** and **SOFTBALL**. **Golf** will be a stand-alone competition in September.

The final competition for 2024 is the Fall Sports Classic scheduled for November 1 & 2 with competitions offered in **Bocce**, **Cheer**, and **Flag Football**.

Restructuring the seasons provides a large team sport, small group(s)/team(s), and individual(s) to compete each season.

Thank you to the Olsen Foundation

The 2024 Snowshoe & Cross-Country Invitational will be sponsored by the Rosemary & David Olsen Foundation. Rosemary & David Olsen have been longtime supporters of Special Olympics Utah and our athletes. They are returning for the 3rd year in a row as the Presenting Sponsor of the Snowshoe & Cross-Country Invitational.



Polar Plunge 2024 was the COOLEST!

2024 brought us FIVE Polar Plunges for Special Olympics Utah: North Ogden, Salt Lake Valley, Cedar City, Park City and Cache Valley. There were over 500 Plungers and over \$60,000 raised for the athletes of Special Olympics Utah! Thank you to the supporters, donors, Plungers, Chickens and Sponsors; AlphaGraphics, American Packaging Corporation, Carls Junior, Cedar City, Fed Up Kitchen, Live Daybreak, Lucky One's Coffee, North Ogden Parks & Recreation, PC Recreation, Park City Library, Pobanz Orthodontics and Wilson Orthodontics.



SOCCER IS COMING TO THE METRO/CENTRAL AREA THIS SPRING!

**Special
Olympics
Utah**



2024 AREA GAMES WILL INCLUDE:

- TRACK & FIELD | MAY 11 | MURRAY HIGH SCHOOL
- SOCCER | MAY 17 | SLCC BRUIN FIELD
- SWIMMING | MAY 18 | LEHI LEGACY POOL



Questions: Contact Yolanda metroarea@sout.org

Volunteer/Coach Spotlight

Meet Shelby Gatherum!

Shelby has been part of Special Olympics Utah for 3 years. She has served as a head of delegation, coach, and a unified partner.

Shelby was first exposed to Special Olympics while she was in High School, but it wasn't until she was an aid in the Special Ed class at Logan High School that she got involved. When covid-19 hit, it shut down a lot of opportunities for our athletes. Shelby saw that no one was doing anything, so she took the initiative to reactivate the Utah State University team as the new HOD. Shelby describes Special Olympics to be "the most happiest thing to watch!"

She mentions that "It makes it all worth it when you get to see someone who typically is not able to score, be able to. Winning is fun, but it's all about being able to see everyone get to participate and feel important."

Shelby graduated from USU in May with a degree in Special Education. She can't wait to have her own classroom and very own team to coach. Her goal is to make Unified Sports the biggest thing at her High School.

We appreciate Shelby's passion and dedication to Special Olympics Utah. We can't wait to see her team grow!



Volunteer here:

- [February 24 | Metro/Central Area Basketball @ The HIVE in Nephi](#)
- [March 7 | Winter Games at North Fork Park in Eden](#)
- [March 7 | South Area Basketball @ NETS on FIRE in St. George](#)
- [March 9 | North Area Basketball at USU in Logan](#)
- [March 22-23 | SOUT State Basketball at JL Sorenson Rec Ceneter in Herriman](#)

Upcoming Events: February & March

February

16	UCS Davis District Basketball Tournament	Bountiful High School
17	UHSAA Unified Swim Meet (1A-4A)	BYU
17	Young Athletes Provo	Matthew's Place
19	Unified Fitness Club, Uintah	Uintah Recreation Center
23	Opening Eyes & Med Fest	Monument Valley
24	UHSAA Unified Swim State Meet (5A-6A)	BYU
24	Metro/Central Basketball Tournament	The HIVE, Nephi
26-1	UCS Inclusion Week	UCS Participating Schools
28	UCS South Region Tournament (TENTATIVE)	Southern Utah University
29	Davis Elementary Snowshoe	Lagoon

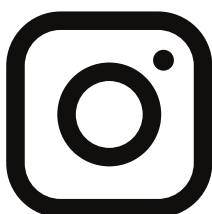
March

1	Cache Valley Polar Plunge	Hyrum State Park
1-23	Harmons "Together We Shine"	Harmon's Stores State-Wide
2	Unified Speed Skating Club Meet	Park City
3	Young Athletes Provo	Matthew's Place
5	Harmons Bowl-A-Palooza	Bonwood Bowl, SLC
7	Snowshoe & Cross-Country Ski Races	North Fork, Eden
7	South Area Basketball	Nets on Fire
8	UCS State Basketball Tournament	University of Utah
9	North Area Basketball Tournament	USU Aggie Recreation Center
9	Northeast Area Basketball Tournament	Vernal Recreation Center
12	Copper Hills UCS Banner Presentation	Copper Hills High School
13	UCS Middle School Basketball Tournament	UVU
14	Soccer Coach Training	TBD
14	South Area Snowshoe Competition	Brian Head Resort
16	Northeast Area Basketball Tournament	Uintah Recreation Center, Vernal
16	Young Athletes Provo	Matthew's Place
19	Canyons Middle School Intramural Basketball	Jordan High School
19	UCS PD: Unified Classroom	Link
20	UCS Track Coach Meeting	Link
21	Middle School Bocce Meeting	Link
22-23	State Basketball Tournament	JL Sorensen Rec Center, Herriman
25	Ken Garff E-Sports State Celebration	University of Utah
25	UCS Jazz Recognition Night	Delta Center
29	Opening Eyes for Schools	Rocky Mountain University, Provo
30	Topgolf Championship	Midvale

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

Make sure you're following us on Social Media

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Friday, March 8 University of Utah

Jon M. Huntsman Center
South Entrance

FREE ADMISSION

8:00–9:00 A.M. — Team Arrivals

9:00 A.M. — Opening Ceremonies

10:00 A.M. — Games Begin

3:15 P.M. — Award Ceremonies



Special Olympics
Unified Champion
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Special Olympics
Utah



Metro Central Area Basketball Tournament

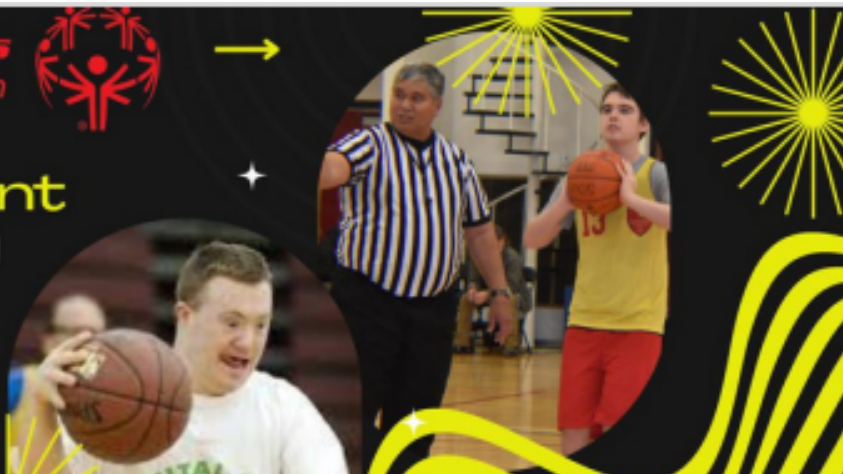
Saturday, February 24 | 9 AM

Juab High School | 802 N 650 E | Nephi

Juab Jr High | 555 E 800 N | Nephi

Juab Jr High West | 380 E 800 N

Presented by "These Pretzels Make"



EVENT SCHEDULE

- 9:00 AM - Volunteer Check-In
- 9:30 AM - Coaches Meeting
- 9:30 AM - Officials Assignments
- 9:45 AM - Opening Ceremony
- 10:00 AM - Competition Begins

Awards presented at completion of division

- Only WATER in plastic bottles allowed in the gyms
- No food or drink in gyms
- NO GLASS
- No outside chairs allowed

EVENTS CONTESTED

- MATP, Skills I & II | COURT 1 | Juab Jr High West
- 3v3 Traditional & Unified | COURT 1-4 | Juab Jr High West
- 5v5 Unified, 5v5 Traditional Div 1-3 | Juab Jr High
- 5v5 Traditional Div. 1-3 | Juab High School



Subject to Change

