

SPECIAL OLYMPICS UTAH

SPORTS FOR ATHLETES OF ALL ABILITIES



Inside this Issue:

Cache County Truck Pull

A Special Auction

Yolanda Kunder

Billy Nixon

Importance of Sports

Unified Fitness & YA

Golf

& more

Celebrating Impact

Zac MacMath believes in being a part of something bigger than himself. The Real Salt Lake goalkeeper is using his platform to spread awareness for Special Olympics and create a positive community to help grow the game of soccer. Zac's commitment to Special Olympics Unified Sports began in Colorado with Rapids. Since arriving in Salt Lake City in 2020, Zac has continued to be a champion of Unified Sports and is one of the RSL Unified soccer teams' biggest fans.

The Players' Tribune recently recognized Zac as a professional athlete who positively impacts the community. **This recognition included a \$20,000 donation from Audi, which Zac and the RSL Soccer Club donated to Special Olympics Utah.** Thank you, Zac and the RSL Soccer Club, for your generous donation and for the years of support you have provided to the RSL Unified soccer team and the athletes of Special Olympics Utah!

[> watch video here](#)

Cache County Sheriff's Truck Pull

Our annual Cache County Truck Pull is in the works! Teams of ten will come together at **Cache County Fair Grounds on August 19th at 9AM**. Each team will pull the truck 20 yards, 2 pulls per team. We invite each delegation in the North area to build a team with athletes, coaches and parents to compete for the 1st place torch run belt. *This event is hosted by the Cache County Sheriffs Dept.* There will be a breakfast bar for all participants! We hope to see you there! **[Register to Pull a Truck Today!](#)**



A Special Auction at the Black & White Bocce Ball

Friday, September 8 | 5:30 – 8:30 PM

Element Event Center | Kearns

[Purchase Tickets Here](#)

Bocce | Silent Auction | Live Music

The Black & White Bocce Ball is fast approaching, and a favorite feature of the event is the silent auction with baskets created by SOUT athletes. Athletes build baskets with items representing their favorite sports, hobbies, foods, and amenities of their hometown. The athletes are at the event to talk with guests and share the story about their baskets. Athlete and team auction baskets confirmed for the Black & White Bocce Ball include: ·Natalie Green and Family, ·Alicia Patrick from the Salt Lake Stars, ·Rochell Deeter HOD of Hartvigsen, ·Kyle "Pickles" Karren, ·Serena Chamberlain and Emily Rissinger with Sparkle Cheer, ·Utah Blizzard Flag Football Team, and ·Christian, Corey, and Monica from the Tooele Giants!

Thanks to all those building auction baskets that tell their story and for your support of the Black & White Bocce Ball. There is still time to contribute an auction item to the Black & White Bocce Ball. Those interested should contact Haley at hnull@sout.org for additional information.

Introducing...

Metro/Central Area Manager, Yolanda Kunder

Yolanda Kunder has a never-ending love for Special Olympics and it began in 2006. Yolanda has served as a coach, HOD, member of the Programs & Outreach Committee, Chair of the Volunteer Organizing Committee, Metro Area Manager, and Sports Development Director. Prior to her time as a SOUT staff, Yolanda worked as a Paraeducator for Granite School District and as a staff at TURN Community Services. Yolanda is very excited to be your Metro/Central Area Manager and looks forward to dedicating her time to supporting, strengthening, and growing the Metro/Central delegations. Yolanda will be available to assist you during office hours Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 AM to 5 PM.



Board of Directors, Billy Nixon



Special Olympics Utah is pleased to announce that William "Billy" Nixon, Ph.D., is the newest member of the Board of Directors. Nixon joins twenty-two other volunteer board members in providing Special Olympics Utah leadership, governance, and organizational oversight. Billy currently serves as the Director of Marketing at BUILT, overseeing the experiential marketing strategy for the brand. Before joining BUILT, Nixon served as the Director of football operations and an adjunct professor at Brigham Young University. At

BYU, he worked directly with Head Coach Kalani Sitake overseeing the day-to-day operations, logistics, and management of the world-famous "Cougars." Both teaching and coaching are passions for Nixon, who played on BYU's national championship lacrosse team while earning his bachelor's degree in Experience Design and Management from the Marriott School of Business. While working at the American Leadership Academy, he made a master's in education from Utah State University. He pursued his doctoral studies in Sport Management: Athletic Administration and Leadership from Troy University after joining the BYU football program in 2016, earning his degree in 2020. Billy served a two-year mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Bangalore, India, and is married to the former Chelsea Kimball. The couple has four children: Evelyn, William, Hazel, and Jack. We are delighted to have Billy and his family in the SOUT family.

Athletes in the Community



Salt Lake Stars and Utah Blizzard athlete Jordan Barlow and his unified partner Sophia hosted a Lemonade Stand to raise funds in their community! Jordan and Sophia got together one night and made posters, posted on social media, and reached out to all of their friends and neighbors. Their Lemonade Stand was open for two hours at their local middle school and had over fifty people stop by to donate and enjoy the lemonade. People from all over the community came together to support their fundraiser, raising a total of \$635! We are very proud of Jordan and Sophia's initiative in hosting this fundraiser and hope to see more local fundraisers!

Health Messengers and the Salt Lake City Unified Fitness Club members led the Walk for Inclusion Presented by Molina Healthcare on June 29th.

Health Messengers started the Walk by helping participants warm up by dancing, stretching, and doing simple exercises like lunges. Health Messengers are Special Olympics Utah athletes who are trained to promote health and wellness among fellow athletes, friends, and families. Teaming up with the SLC Unified Fitness Club members, these athletes created the warm-up routine in the weeks preceding the Walk for Inclusion and are proud advocates of healthy living! If you are interested in becoming a Health Messenger, please contact Julia at jtateoka@sout.org.



Follow our New Instagram @SpecialOlympicsUtah



Special Olympics Utah has a new way to connect on Instagram and we want you to follow us [@SpecialOlympicsUtah](https://www.instagram.com/SpecialOlympicsUtah). We share all about our athletes, new sports programs we offer, fundraising events and things happening in the community. **Tag your favorite #SOUT photos & watch us reshare your photo on our story.**

The Importance of Sports

It has long been thought that playing sports helps individuals to achieve success later in life and for many it has. Research shows 95% of Fortune 500 CEOs, and 13 out of the last 19 U.S. Presidents, contribute the skills they learned from participating in sports to their business success. Sports are extremely beneficial, as they teach self-discipline, decision making, teamwork, increase your ability to retain information, reduce stress and much more. Employers are more likely to hire athletes because of the skills engrained in most athletes like determination, goal oriented, teamwork, leadership, coachability, performance under pressure, and a never-give-up- attitude. A Cornell University study found that people who played high school sports got better jobs with better pay, and that those benefits lasted a lifetime. Many of the skills learned in

sports can help you in everyday life. Knowing how to manage your stress and keep a level head, has helped new Director of Sports, Taylor Smith, countless times. Taylor says, "If someone said or did something to offend me, I can simply 'Shake it off.'" Another common phrase utilized in sports to empower athletes to keep trying is **"never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game."** – Babe Ruth.



Expanding Unified Fitness Club & Young Athletes Program Throughout Utah!

Health and wellness are all the rage among Special Olympics Utah athletes! We have so much interest from our athletes from around the state. However, there is a need for leaders of Unified Fitness Clubs and Young Athletes. The Unified Fitness Club currently meeting on Thursdays from 7 - 8PM at Glendale Middle School is a blast



filled with games, exercising, and fun fitness leaders. Although we have not started Young Athletes yet, we will begin a Utah County Young Athletes later in August! We are in need of volunteer leaders in the areas of Ogden, St. George, Salt Lake County, and Utah County to have fun and fulfilling weekly workout sessions or mobility clinics with Special Olympics Utah athletes. **If you or anyone you know would be interested in volunteering an hour each week to lead a Unified Fitness Club or Young Athletes, please contact Julia Tateoka at jtateoka@sout.org.** These weekly programs are a blast; meeting new friends, playing fun games and getting active!

Meet our New Volunteer Golf Manager



Special Olympics Utah is proud to announce Angie Canada as our Volunteer Golf Manager. She brings her years of golf experience to the program. After having coached the Unified Golf Team at USA Games it was apparent to her that we, as a State, need to improve the training we give our golfers to prepare them for higher-level events such as USA & World Games. She has graciously offered to share her insights as we rise to the task. Welcome Angie!

The 2023 Fall Golf Season is Ramping Up!

This year we will be hosting Area Golf Skills Competitions for all golfers and their unified partners. At the Area competitions, all individuals (athletes and unified partners) who plan to participate in Golf during the Fall Sports Classic must compete in five skills that make up the Level One Golf Skills. Those golfers who earn a score of 60 or greater in the Level One Golf Skills will be able to golf in either 9-Hole or 18-Hole events in October. All other athletes



and unified partners will compete in Level One Golf Skills at State. We plan to make this an incredible experience for all! Athletes and unified partners will have five attempts in each of the five skills. The skills are Short Putt, Long Putt, Chip Shot, Wood Shot, and Iron Shot. Each attempt may score from zero to four points. The standard for eligibility is for an athlete and unified partner in the Area Golf Skills Competition is to achieve a total score of at least 60 points. The golfer should score 10 points or more in at least three of the five skills, with one of the scores of 10 being in either the wood or iron shot. The athlete should also achieve a minimum of five points in the two skills that total less than 10 points. Competition and In-person and virtual coaches training details will be published soon. **Please contact your Area Manager with any questions.**

Volunteer Spotlight



Our Volunteer Spotlight is shining on Gary Dillard, a former Lifeguard Trainer, MS/HS Math Teacher, and Mental Health Advocate. Gary was a rockstar volunteer this past Summer Games as he took on our Merchandise Lead position for three days. Handling all merchandise sales for Special Olympics Utah, he was great to work with and even better to be around. Gary has two children who are both have high functioning autism. He started volunteering through his work with doTERRA. He says, "I thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to serve and work with all those I meet. I hope to continue being part of this awesome group for as long as possible.

Some of the greatest blessings I have received through serving have been to share in the accomplishments of the athletes and to meet the awesome people who help to make all the events possible. In return I have been able to grow and experience new successes in my own personal life. "

Volunteer here:

- Bowling, SLC
August 5th, Bonwood Bowl
- Bowling, St. George
August 5th, Sunset Bowl
- Utah Open
August 14th - 20th, Provo
- Motor Rodeo
August 26th, West Jordan
- Fall Sports Classic
October 13th & 14th, Rose Park



Upcoming Events: August & September

August

1 - 3	National Jr. Golf Tournament	Glenmoor Golf Club, S. Jordan
5	Northern State Bowling Tournament	Bonwood Bowl, SLC
5	Southern State Bowling Tournament	Sunset Lanes, St. George
14 - 20	Utah Open Golf Tournament	Riverside Country Club, Provo
15	Topgolf Championship	Topgolf, Midvale
19	Cache County Sheriff's Truck Pull	Fair Grounds, Logan
26	Wasatch Front Police Motor Rodeo	Industry Circle, W. Jordan

September

5	UCS Utah County Soccer Tournament	Salem Hills High School, Salem
6	Flag Football Coach Training	Zoom
8	The Black & White Bocce Ball	Element Event Center, Kearns
11	UCS Central Soccer Tournament	Richfield High School, Richfield
12	UCS SL Valley Soccer Tournament	Hillcrest High School, Midvale
13	UCS Cache Valley Soccer Tournament	Green Canyon High School, Logan
20	UCS Weber County Soccer Tournament	Ogden Comm Complex
22	North Area Bocce Tournament	Ben Lomand High School, Ogden
23	Metro/Central Area Bocce Tournament	East River Front Park, Draper
26	UCS Alpine District Soccer Tournament	Lone Peak High School, Highland

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

Make sure you're following us on social media

*tap icon below to be directed to that social media platform





G.O.C. MEMBERS NEEDED

G.O.C. or Games Organizing Committee- This committee will help the SOUT team in preparation and fulfillment of competitions/invitationals/games; to ensuring athletes have a fun, safe and engaging experience!



JOIN NOW

**Special
Olympics
Utah**



DANGER • DANGER • DANGER



DANGER

TRUCK PULL 2023 For Special Olympics Utah

Hosted by the Cache County Sheriff's Office



10 PERSON TEAM
20 YARD PULL
\$200 PER TEAM
2 PULLS PER TEAM
FASTEST TIME WINS
CHAMPIONSHIP BELT!!

Saturday, August 19th
From 9:00 - 11:00am
Cache County Fairgrounds
450 S. 500 W. Logan



To sign up your team, contact Deputy Salanoa at hsalanoa@cashesheriff.org

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



Special
Olympics
Utah



DO NOT CROSS

DO NOT CROSS

DO NOT CROSS

DO NOT CROSS

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS UTAH
PROUDLY PRESENTS**

2ND ANNUAL WASATCH FRONT

POLICE MOTOR • RODEO •



August 26, 2023

FREE TO THE PUBLIC

**CHARITY AUCTION • FOOD TRUCKS • STUNT SHOW
FAMILY FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES • VENDOR BOOTHS**

ENGINES START AT 9 A.M. | 8275 INDUSTRY CIRCLE | WEST JORDAN

If you'd like to sponsor an event or donate as an
individual or business, please contact:

**Spenser Carrier: 801-600-2601
Haley Nall: 801-949-2001**

