



SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
**NORTH AMERICA**  
GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP  
SOUTH CAROLINA 2015



## **Special Olympics North America Golf Invitational Tournament Coming to Hilton Head September 10-13, 2015**

*Volunteers Needed*

Hilton Head, SC – (August 17, 2015) -- More than 220 golfers from U.S. and Canadian Special Olympics Programs will compete in the 15th annual Special Olympics North America Golf Invitational Tournament at Port Royal Golf Club in Hilton Head, SC, September 10-13, 2015. The Special Olympics North America Golf Invitational, presented by KPMG LLP, is seeking volunteers to assist with the tournament.

Tournament organizers are inviting the community to experience the joy and power of Special Olympics first-hand by helping fill an array of volunteer positions during the tournament. Those interested may apply online at <http://bit.do/sonagolfvolunteer>. Volunteer positions will be assigned on a first come, first served basis, with registration closing August 31. Golf knowledge is not necessary for all volunteer roles; however, for volunteers with golf knowledge, specific volunteer roles are available. Volunteers will be provided with a meal during their shift and an event shirt. Volunteers under 15 years of age must be accompanied by an adult - no volunteers under 13 years of age allowed.

The event will kick off with a brief Opening Ceremony on Thursday, Sept. 10 at 7:30pm, with three competitive golf rounds held Friday, Sept. 11 through Sunday, Sept. 13. Awards ceremonies for the golf competition will take place immediately following the final round on Sunday, Sept. 13. All competition and ceremonies will take place at Port Royal Golf Club.

Special Olympics golf allows athletes to grow in the game as they gain experience and offers five levels of play for athletes with different golf abilities. Level I competition consists of an individual skills contest, where six golf skills are tested. Level II is an alternate shot team play, where a Special Olympics athlete is paired with a Unified partner (golfer without intellectual disability) of more advanced skill for a 9-hole competition. Level III is Special Olympics Unified Sports® team play, pairing Special Olympics and Unified partners of similar ability for an 18-hole competition. Levels IV and V are individual stroke play 9-hole and 18-hole competitions, respectively.

In addition to KPMG serving as Presenting Sponsor of the 2015 Special Olympics North America Golf Invitational, support is also being provided for the event by USGA, the PGA Tour, and the Coca-Cola Company.

Information, updates, photos and results from the Special Olympics North America Golf Invitational will be available by visiting [facebook.com/sonainvitationals](https://www.facebook.com/sonainvitationals). The Opening Ceremony, competition and medal ceremonies throughout the weekend are free and open to the public.

Special Olympics' Golf program began in 1988 with the assistance of The PGA of America and USGA. Since then both associations contribute to the growth of the program with grassroots training, rules education, tournament administration and national program financial support. The PGA Tour also provides ongoing financial support to the program. PGA Tour player Padraig Harrington and LPGA Tour player I.K. Kim are global sport ambassadors for Special Olympics, helping to implement golf programs and initiatives designed to spread respect for people with intellectual disabilities. Currently nearly 23,000 athletes participate in golf competitions in Special Olympics North America.

### **About Special Olympics**

Special Olympics is a global movement that unleashes the human spirit through the transformative power and joy of sports, every day around the world. We empower people with intellectual disabilities to become accepted and valued members of their communities, which leads to a more respectful and inclusive society for all. Using

sports as the catalyst and programming around health and education, Special Olympics is fighting inactivity, injustice and intolerance.

Founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the Special Olympics movement has grown to more than 4.5 million athletes in 170 countries. With the support of more than 1.4 million coaches and volunteers, Special Olympics delivers 32 Olympic-type sports and more than 94,000 games and competitions throughout the year. Visit Special Olympics at [www.specialolympics.org](http://www.specialolympics.org). Engage with us on: Twitter [@specialolympics](https://twitter.com/specialolympics), [fb.com/specialolympics](https://fb.com/specialolympics).

### **About Port Royal Golf Club**

Port Royal Golf Club ([www.portroyalgolfclub.com](http://www.portroyalgolfclub.com)) is nestled within one of Hilton Head Island's most pristine plantations along the Atlantic coastline, on the northwestern point of Hilton Head Island. The Club features 54 holes of resort golf. This golf haven was designed by some of the best golf architects - George Cobb, Pete Dye, and Willard C. Byrd. It has also been honored with the presence of some of golf's legendary players, having hosted the Champions Tour Hilton Head Seniors International and most recently hosted the annual Hilton Head Open. In 2014, Port Royal Golf Club was recognized by World Property Channel as one of the "Top 10 'Exotic' Golf Courses in the World." The Club is also recognized for world-class tennis programs, winning "Top 50 Greatest U.S. Tennis Resorts," by Tennis Magazine for the previous eight consecutive years and "Top 50 Resorts," by Tennis Resorts Online in 2014. Port Royal recently hosted the

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