



MISSION:

To provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with an intellectual disability, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

HISTORY:

Founded in 1968

PARTICIPANTS (per the 2023 census):

Registered Athletes and Unified Partners: 4,905
 Coaches: 502
 Competitions: 117
 Volunteers: 4,589

SUPPORT:

Recipient of government, corporate and individual funding

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS:

- 2023 Special Olympics World Games, Berlin, Germany
- 2019 Special Olympics World Games, Abu Dhabi
- 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games, Austria
- 2015 Special Olympics World Games, Los Angeles, USA
- 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games, Pyeongchang, South Korea
- 2011 Special Olympics World Games, Athens, Greece

23 OFFICIAL SPORTS:

Alpine Skiing	Athletics	Basketball	Bocce
Bowling	Cheerleading	Cycling	Equestrian
Cycling	Development Events	Equestrian	Figure Skating
Flag Football	Football (Soccer)	Golf	Gymnastics, Artistic
Powerlifting	Short Track Speed Skating	Snowshoeing	Softball
Swimming	Tennis	Volleyball	

OTHER PROGRAMS:

Athlete Leadership, Health Messenger training, Healthy Athletes, Young Athletes Program, Unified Champion Schools®, Special Olympics Unified Sports®, Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR), Motor Activities Training Program (MATP), Fitness Programming

EXECUTIVE STAFF:

Tom Cunningham, Board Chair
Mr. John Kliegl, President and CEO
Ms. Lisa Spencer, Athlete Representatives on the Board of Directors

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SPECIAL OLYMPICS IOWA

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