



**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 1971

**PARTICIPANTS (per the 2022 census):**

Registered Athletes and Unified Partners: 15,660  
 Coaches: 515  
 Competitions: 128

**SUPPORT:**

Recipient of government, corporate and individual funding

**INTERNATIONAL EVENTS:**

- 2023 Special Olympics World Games, Berlin, Germany
- 2019 Special Olympics World Games, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games, Graz, 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

**13 OFFICIAL SPORTS:**

Athletics (Track and Field)	Basketball	Bocce	
Bowling	Flag Football	Golf	
Powerlifting	Softball	Swimming	Pickleball
Volleyball	Tennis	Soccer	

**OTHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS:**

Athlete Leadership, Healthy Athletes, Healthy Communities, Young Athletes, Special Olympics Unified Sports®, Special Olympics Unified Champions Schools® and Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR).

**EXECUTIVE STAFF:**

Audrey Verret, Board Chair  
 Larry Linthacum, President & CEO [linthacum@somo.org](mailto:linthacum@somo.org)

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS MISSOURI**

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