



JUNE 2019 NEWSLETTER



**Let me win, but if I cannot win,
Let me be brave in the attempt.**

**Special
Olympics
Pennsylvania**



*Northampton
County*

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MEDICALS

If your athlete's Special Olympic physical will expire during the 2019-2020 school year and they have a well visit scheduled over the summer, please get a SO physical form signed while you are there. We can only accept physicals that are completed on the official SOPA form. Specific instructions and the required medical form can be found on the NCSO website under the Medicals tab.

www.ncspecialolympicspa.org

All questions regarding physicals should be directed to

Linda Lechner LLechnerNCSO@gmail.com.

**Special
Olympics**
Pennsylvania



*Northampton
County*

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

SAVE THE DATE
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
SPECIAL OLYMPICS

JUNE 17, 2019

COLONIAL
INTERMEDIATE
UNIT 20



24TH ANNUAL
GOLF TOURNAMENT

WHITETAIL GOLF CLUB
2679 KLEIN ROAD
BATH, PA 18014

Please spread the word about this years Golf Tournament! Donations are welcome!
If there are any questions please contact Renee Heckman, rheckman@ciu20.org or
Janelle Pemberton, jpemberton@ciu20.org



SPECIAL SPECIAL SOUTH

The ocean was calling our athletes during Special Special South event held at Nazareth Area High School on April 17, 2019. With 22 classes and over 130 athletes in attendance a good time was had by all!

Jordan Benner, a student from Nazareth Area High School, kicked off the event with her amazing rendition of the National Anthem. Then, Ben Kranich from Forks Elementary School led us passionately in the Pledge of Allegiance. Finally, Javier Pinos from Northampton Area High School got everyone pumped up with the Athlete's Oath before the event kicked off!

Nazareth Area High School students and staff made way for the day by setting up a Moana theme oasis. Within the olympic village, athletes were able to choose from making a lei headband, creating colorful artwork, participating in a ball toss, engaging with therapy dogs, and watching the film Moana. Additionally, NAHS provided lunch to all the athletes. This year, Rita's Italian Ice was also included as a special treat in memory of a very special Nazareth Special Education teacher who had recently passed away. Thank you, NAHS for always putting such amazing effort into an awesome day for our kids!

Within the gymnasium and wrestling room, athletes participated in events such as softball throw, target throw, basketball toss, scooter races, 25 yard dash races, javelin throw, pull ups, sit ups, and long jump. Theme music from Moana played over the loudspeaker as participants engaged in the activities, cheered on others, and had a great time! The event was wrapped up with a parade to give one last HOORAY for our athletes and a dance party to get any extra wiggles out before heading back to the school.

As Maui would say...What can I say except you're welcome! A special thank you to Amanda Sechrist and the NCSO staff for helping to organize and run this event as well as many IU supervisors for coming out and showing their support. Finally, the biggest thank you goes out to our classroom teachers and the athletes themselves. Without you all, this day would not be possible! You all create happiness right where you are!



COMMUNITY BASED SOFTBALL



We had a great group of athletes that got together on Thursday afternoons to work on softball skills. It was awesome to have some new friends come to give softball a try for the first time.

We started out learning the basics: learning how to throw (step, throw, follow-through), bat, run the bases and field the ball. After a few weeks, we broke up into 2 teams and played an adaptive game. Each team took their turn in the field and at bat.

For the first time ever NCSO took 7 athletes to Penn State to compete in softball skills! But, I think the athletes were the most excited for ice cream at the Penn State Creamery.

Throughout our season we were thankful to have the support of amazing volunteers from Northampton County Youth and the Easton Area High School JV Baseball team. We were also thankful to have Coach Jim join us for the season!



COMMUNITY BASED BASKETBALL



This year was the first year we held competitive basketball trainings. What is competitive basketball, you ask? We took the skills they learned in the fall, during the Basketball Skills Trainings and added more defensive skills to learn to play a 3 vs 3 game. All of the athletes worked very hard learning how to play defense on another athlete and how to keep them from scoring during a game situation. This was not an easy skill to teach, but ALL of our athletes improved from the beginning of the trainings until the final training. We even got a couple chances to take our skills on the road and play against other teams. Ten athletes competed in a 5 vs 5 full court game in front of a big crowd at NACC gymnasium. They were able to show off all they learned during the VIA All-Star Classic, and got to high five the Senior All-Stars from our area! They all were tired that night after all the running they did, but loved getting all the cheers for their skill and determination! Moravian College also invited us to play 3 vs 3 games against teams from other counties! They did a great job and improved each game! We won two of the games we played and had different players scoring in each game! All of the players learned and improved during the 8 weeks and had a fun time playing the game of basketball!



YOUNG ATHLETES FAMILY FUN DAY

On May 17, 2019, Northampton County Special Olympics hosted the Family Fun Day as a cooperative event between the Young Athletes program and the CIU20 Early Intervention program. The event is held annually at Wind Gap Park for the EI program's students and families. Over 300 people attended the event that featured face painting, balloon sculptures, art activities, sensory experiences, and motor activities that address jumping, running, throwing, and kicking. For the first time ever, we also had a torch run with the Slate Belt Regional Police Department and some NCSO athletes to open the event. Despite the many days of rain prior to the event, the weather held out, and the students, families, and staff all had a fun day together.





EQUESTRIAN

Northampton County Special Olympics Equestrian completed its 7th season on June 4 with a fabulous horse show showcasing the dedication and progress of our athletes at the Equi-librium Therapeutic Horsemanship facility in Nazareth. This season brought many new faces to our team with four new riders and several new volunteers, many of whom are local high school students. Leading up to the horse show our ten riders worked on skills for Equitation, Trail, Dressage and Pole Bending. Their hard work certainly paid off and was celebrated under sunny skies at the horse show as they impressed the crowd of family members, friends, and many of the rider's classroom teachers with demonstrated growth and increasing independence.

We could not have completed another successful season without the support of Equi-librium and all of our volunteers-- to our coaches, instructors, horse leaders, and side helpers-- a sincere thank you for your commitment! Thank you to Equi-librium for continuing to host and support our athletes. Finally, we recognize and sincerely thank Renee Vaughn, who has co-coached for six seasons. Renee, your smile, encouragement, and friendship will be missed in upcoming seasons as you seek new adventures.

Congratulations to our riders who competed at the PA State Summer Games at Penn State University June 6-8!

