



Special Olympics
Northern California

CHANGING

the game



2022

| SPECIAL OLYMPICS NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

OUR *impact*

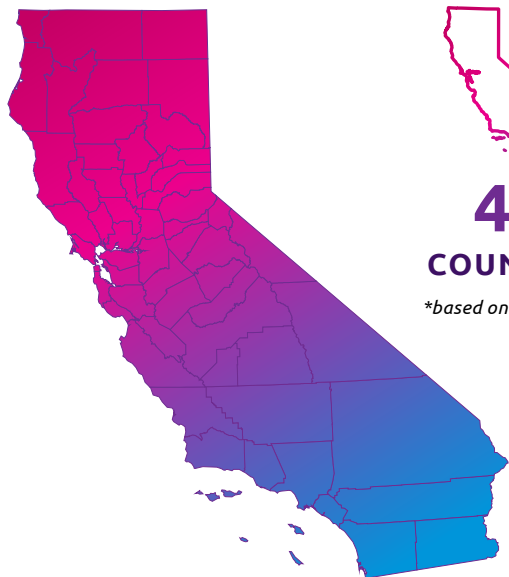


A return to in-person activities in 2022 inspired new ideas, bigger events and more inclusive community partnerships... and this is just the beginning.

Special Olympics Northern California uses sports to **jumpstart change** and *spark joy*. Through the **power of play**, we unite people with and without intellectual disabilities to create a more connected community.

While sports are at the heart of everything we do, they are far from all of it. Throughout 2022, we empowered athletes **through health screenings and education, school partnerships, and leadership programs.**

Whom We Serve



43
COUNTIES

*based on 2019 census



100,000+
STUDENTS IMPACTED



26,000
ATHLETES

66

I love Special Olympics with all my heart. I love the athletes. I love the volunteers. I love my coaches. I love the staff. Special Olympics is my world and my everything. We need this in our lives.

*-RYAN,
Special Olympics athlete*





Special Olympics
Northern California



Sports:

Stepping up our game

Sports are at the core of our mission and help us create wins for athletes and communities. Our year-round sports programs provide an inclusive platform for people with intellectual disabilities of all ages to improve their physical fitness, build friendships and discover their fullest potential.

This year's signature events included:

SUMMER GAMES

Our largest local competition returned for the first time since 2019 with a new location, intense competitions and special guests.

[MEET THE TEAM, PHOTO GALLERY + RESULTS](#)



click to play

SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

600+
ATHLETES

4
SPORTS

**RONNIE
LOTT**

GUEST SPEAKER

**DAVID
GARIBALDI**

PERFORMANCE PAINTER

2022 USA GAMES

A national event that brought together thousands of athletes, volunteers and fans from all 50 states and the Caribbean to Orlando, Florida. We were proud to send a delegation of 25 athletes and coaches to represent NorCal!

[MEET THE TEAM, PHOTO GALLERY + RESULTS](#)



click to play

TEAM NORCAL MEDAL COUNT

8
GOLD

7
SILVER

7
BRONZE

29
4TH-8TH PLACE
RIBBONS





"Kobie" Respicio

Leadership: Breaking down barriers

There are no better advocates for individuals with intellectual disabilities than our athletes themselves. Through virtual and in-person skills-based classes, presentation opportunities, and chances to take on leadership roles, our Athlete Leadership Program equips for success at school, work, and in the community.

Athlete Leaders were empowered and trained to pursue their passions and shatter stereotypes: [This year, a NorCal athlete will begin his doctoral studies at Gonzaga University.](#)



Health: Advancing Health & Wellness

Physical fitness starts on the field, but whole-body health and wellbeing carries us through everyday life. That's why we offer a variety of free screenings and education (both virtual and in-person) for athletes to improve their overall well-being and performance.

In 2022, our partnerships with **Stanford University, John Muir Health, University of the Pacific** and others provided opportunities for medical students and health professionals to learn firsthand from our athletes about how to best serve patients of all abilities.

The majority of healthcare professionals are not educated on how to treat people with ID¹.



500

IN-PERSON HEALTH
SCREENINGS RESUMED
IN 2022



2,500+

ATHLETES IMPACTED
BY HEALTH & WELLNESS
ACTIVITIES IN 2022



¹Holder, M. (2004). CAN project: Curriculum assessment of needs. Washington, DC: Special Olympics, Inc.



Schools:

An A+ for Inclusion

Special Olympics Northern California harnesses the power of sports to ignite friendship and belonging between students with and without disabilities. We impacted more than 100,000 students from pre-K through transition and returned to in-person activities in 2022.

This year, Special Olympics Northern California enrolled 150 schools in our Unified Champion Schools Program. The program joins students with and without intellectual disabilities on the same sports team, as leaders in school and community activities, and as organizers and participants in school-wide activities.

San Benito High School in Hollister was recognized as a **Top-5 Unified Champion School in the country** by ESPN and Special Olympics International in 2022. San Benito exemplifies our commitment to an inclusive campus culture by empowering youth leaders to create change in their communities.



100,000+

STUDENTS IMPACTED
from Pre-K to Transition



150

NORCAL SCHOOLS ENROLLED
as Unified Champion Schools

Community:

We're better together

Special Olympics Northern California is grateful for the ongoing support of local community groups, businesses, volunteers, donors, and professional teams such as the San Francisco 49ers, **Golden State Warriors**, San Jose Earthquakes, San Jose Sharks, and Sacramento Kings, among others.

Our inclusive movement has ignited change at the highest levels, including direct multi-year support from **the State of California**. Special Olympics is also at the grassroots level with local fundraising and volunteerism from **law enforcement**. Hundreds of agencies work with us throughout the year to raise funds, volunteer at competitions, and form mutually-beneficial relationships with our athletes and families.





Special Olympics
Northern California



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Contact us today to get in the game. We rely on support from individuals, corporations and foundations to change the lives of athletes and their families across Northern California.

For more information or to get involved please contact:

info@sonc.org

3480 Buskirk #340
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
(925) 944-8801

Please remember Special Olympics in your Estate Plan!

Contact plannedgiving@sonc.org for more information.



“ We are eternally grateful to Special Olympics for teaching Lindsay skills which have contributed to her success as an adult.

- JOAN,
mother of Special Olympics Athlete Lindsay

”



Special Olympics *Northern California*

Playing today for a more inclusive tomorrow

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