



Welcome to the Special Olympics Alaska Mat-Su Community

Thank you for your interest in the program. The Mat-Su Community Program is a sub-program of Special Olympics Alaska which in turn is accredited by the global organization Special Olympics, Inc. The Mat-Su Community is accredited and overseen by Special Olympics Alaska, but is run separately. We are a sub-program that is completely run by volunteers. Volunteers come from the community at large, families, athletes, schools/university and the sports community.

The mission of Special Olympics Alaska is to provide year-round sports training and competition. We have four sports seasons, which are:

Summer Season: Basketball, Athletics (track & field), Swimming
mid-March to mid-June training

Fall Season: Unified Bocce, Unified Golf
Mid June to mid-September training

Bowling Season: a "season" all its own
mid-August to mid-November training

Winter Season: Downhill skiing, Cross Country Skiing, Snowshoeing, Snowboarding, Floor Hockey
mid-November to mid-March training, in part dependent on weather!

The steps required for participating in the sports training and competition programs are:

- 1) Schedule an orientation meeting with Special Olympics Alaska (30 minute meeting)
- 2) Complete the registration forms for your position (athlete, volunteer, partner)
- 3) Register for the sports season (each season requires a new registration form to be completed). Registrations are typically sent out/posted online a month out from the start of the season.

Once an athlete's information has been received, he/she will begin to get information on registering for training in the coming seasons. [PLEASE NOTE: Original forms must be turned in, via mail or drop off.] If you also give us an email address we will put you on our email list for notices and notes when we need to get out quick information. At the Special Olympics Alaska website you can find our forms, current newsletter, and season registration form on our page. From the home page of Special Olympics Alaska, click on *Community Programs*, then click on *Mat-Su*.

The Special Olympics Alaska Mat-Su Community Program is always seeking volunteers as well as opportunities to raise funds to run the program. Volunteer needs include sport specific support (coaching, officiating, and volunteering for competitions) and general program support (fundraising, office administration, volunteer recruitment, etc.). Funds raised for the program support several areas including facilities, uniforms and sports specific fees. As a new athlete and/or family joining the program we need you to consider being actively involved. Please call the number below or send an email for more information.

Phone: 907-631-8591

Email: matsu@specialolympicsalaska.org