



Hometown Games has taken place successfully in various local communities across the province. Special Olympics Ontario will strive to maximize local exposure and recognize your support. There are many benefits to becoming a “host” of a Hometown Games event, but the recognition and value will most notably come from the athletes themselves!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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INTRODUCTION

Special Olympics Ontario

Special Olympics is a worldwide program providing year-round sports training and competition for people with an intellectual disability. Sport Canada recognizes Special Olympics as the main provider of these services, although some participants may also have physical challenges. In Canada, over 32,000 athletes participate in training and competition organized by 12 Provincial and Territorial chapters. In Ontario, the organization is active in over 140 communities across the province, operating 1,643 sports clubs through a dedicated team comprised of over 7,000 volunteers. There are over 16,000 athletes registered across the province.

The real impact of Special Olympics Ontario (SOO) is helping its athletes daily to fulfill their dreams and to enrich their lives. Research has proven physical training and athletic competition for individuals with intellectual disabilities increases self-respect, self confidence, enhances adaptive skills, and strengthens social and emotional development.

HOMETOWN GAMES

Special Olympics is well known for its International, National and Provincial Games but the key for all athletes is the access and opportunity to compete close to home. Although Special Olympics Ontario has long hosted local and regional competitions, the scope, quantity and availability falls well short of the need, especially given the number of new athletes joining the organization.

Why Hometown Games?

- Nearly 40 years of experience have taught us that the full benefit of Special Olympics is achieved only when the athletes can apply in competition the skills and fitness acquired through training. Games and competition are essential to the Special Olympics experience.
- By virtue of its organizational structure Hometown Games will address the need for more local sport competition. It will also provide an opportunity for individuals to volunteer with Special Olympics at the community level. Volunteers will make a real and valued contribution to the community and become part of a great TEAM.
- A significant number of athletes will not advance beyond local and regional competitions, since the capacity of Provincial and National Games cannot keep pace with the dramatic increase in new athlete enrolment.
- Special Olympics is therefore committed to the expansion and enhancement of competitive opportunities at the local level – Hometown Games.

Goals & Objectives

- To develop a self-sustaining competition model that can be adapted for any community.
- To provide opportunities for new volunteers and corporate sponsors to participate in their community.
- To host grow the number of new quality competitions each year that will both meet priorities and needs within Special Olympics Ontario.
- To host quality competitions at a low cost to the athletes.
- To market Hometown Games as an important element for Special Olympics athletes.



BECOME A HOST!

The “Host” takes primary responsibility for planning, organizing, funding and operating the event. A business, service club, school or organization can create a Host Committee to facilitate a Special Olympics Ontario Hometown Games. Most often the Games are one-day in length and provide an exceptional volunteer experience and team-building event. We hope not only to increase local sport competition but through your help to increase the legacy of awareness and greater opportunities for people with an intellectual disability!

Providing value to sponsors and athletes is the focus of this new Special Olympics property Hometown Games. Your organization will be central to our goal of increasing competition for our athletes and raising funds to ensure that community programs continue to grow across the province.

Hosting an Event

- One-day event involving 50-150 Special Olympics athletes
- Select a sport from an extensive list
- Special Olympics Ontario support available
- Registration fee of \$10 per athlete is put back in your Special Olympics community
- Operations Manual provided
- Insurance coverage through Special Olympics Ontario

Budget Costs

Overall budget approximately \$5,000 to cover the following:

- Facility rentals
- Medals for all participants
- Athlete Meals (Lunch/Snacks)
- Banners/Signage for sponsors and competition.
- Volunteer recognition
- Thank You Advertisement to sponsors and supporters

Games budget can be funded through sponsorship, donation or gifts-in-kind.