

Triumph



Special Olympics New York • DEC. 2003/JAN. 2004



Male and Female Athletes of the Year are Among 14 New Global Messengers

Michael Burg and Debra Ellis enjoy a whirlwind weekend that includes Global Messenger training and Athlete of the Year honors.

Fourteen Special Olympics New York athletes completed Global Messenger training Nov. 14 to 16 in Saratoga Springs at the 2003 Fall Leadership Conference.

Among those participating were the new Male and Female Athletes of the Year: Michael Burg of Belle Harbor and Debra

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Special Olympics Athletes Lead Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

Ten of Special Olympics New York's finest march at the head of the parade; World Games participant Sean O'Rourke cuts the opening ribbon.

More than 60 million television viewers tuned in as 10 Special Olympics New York athletes kicked off and starred in Broadway's biggest show: The 77th annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

SONY's athletes carried the opening banner, leading the world's most famous parade from the 77th Street and Central Park West start, through Columbus Circle onto Broadway, past Times Square and down to Herald Square and 34th Street as a crowd of more than two million cheered for them.

Sean O'Rourke of Long Island, who completed the half-marathon at the 2003 Special Olympics

World Summer Games, helped parade director Robin Hall and NBC's Al Roker cut the ribbon, officially starting a 5,000-person procession that included marching bands, character balloons and performers such as singer Clay Aiken.



Long Island's Alyssa Scroope is all smiles as she prepares to march down Broadway.

SONY Staff / Doreen Hand

In addition to O'Rourke, SONY's marchers included: Manhattan's Anthony Arriaga, Felix Eng and Anthony Hassan; Long Island's Matt Schuster and Alyssa Scroope; Adam Stein and E.J. Greczylo of Westchester; and Staten Island's Sasha Alexander and Alan Russo.

To see more photos, visit www.specialolympicsny.org. ■ DH & JF

Key Volunteer Ready for Winter Games

When the 2004 Special Olympics New York Winter Games roll into Ellenville Feb. 20 to 22, longtime volunteer Ken Beck will be a very popular man.

"We call on Ken for anything we need," said Pete Lawrence, director of competition at SONY.

"And he comes through every time," said Diana Bennett, SONY's director of volunteer management. "He's our go-to guy for the Winter Games."

The 2004 Winter Games will be held at the Nevele Grand Resort & Country Club for the sixth time since 1990, and Beck has been involved each time. He first volunteered about a decade ago, and he keeps coming back.

Beck serves as a prime example of the hundreds of volunteers who regularly give time to SONY each year.

"I find the Winter Games very rewarding," Beck said. "I really enjoy seeing what the athletes are able to do. I love seeing them perform. They get what sports are about."

At the Winter Games, the recently retired high school guidance counselor lines up student volunteers and he arranges community hospitality for Special Olympics athletes.

Additionally, he makes the Winter Games a family affair: His wife, Joan, serves as a photographer; and his son, Mark, runs the ski area for SONY's athletes.

When asked what he expects his role to be at the upcoming Winter Games, Beck answered like the dedicated volunteer he is: "Whatever Special Olympics wants me to do." ■ JF

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Find up-to-date information on our official Web site, www.specialolympicsny.org, and www.sosshopping.com

A Message from the President

Neal J. Johnson is President & CEO of Special Olympics New York, Inc.



Throughout this issue, you'll see images and headlines that truly demonstrate the outstanding work of our athletes and volunteers, the hope and joy of the holiday season and the vision

for the future of Special Olympics New York.

On Page 1, there's a story about the annual Fall Leadership Conference, which was highlighted by the Awards Banquet, Global Messenger training, an overall convergence of thinking regarding the ongoing restructuring of SONY and the importance it has to our future success.

Sharing the front page is a story about how our athletes represented New York and the worldwide Special Olympics movement at the 77th annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. More than two million people lined the streets of Manhattan and more than 60 million television viewers tuned in to the spectacular holiday show. Cutting the ribbon and leading the parade were 10 inspiring people who represent the pride, courage and joy we receive from our athletes.

At the Fall Conference, we all came together for a weekend of laughter, heartfelt debate and a teambuilding exercise; teams of volunteers (and athletes) from each of the existing and proposed regions had 30

minutes to conceive and produce a short commercial promoting the mission of Special Olympics, as well as their own particular regions. The teams demonstrated creativity, humor and a commitment to the athletes – traits that will come in handy as they build and maintain their regional programs.

The Fall Conference kicked off the holiday season here at Special Olympics, the awards banquet reminded us all of the commitment it takes by volunteers to deliver our mission throughout the state and the Macy's Parade gave us all the spirit

of the season.

The holidays are a time when many people throughout the world do not feel joy, and are instead reminded of things that they might have lost – like opportunities and, perhaps, loved ones.

But there's a reason why we all remain so devoted to Special Olympics. Every time these feelings surface, we are all reminded of the gift of our volunteers and, most importantly, our athletes.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season for you and all those you care about. ■



SONY Staff / Doreen Hand

Ten Special Olympics New York athletes were selected to march at the head of the 77th annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. They were cheered on by more than two million New Yorkers as they carried the opening banner, and more than 60 million television viewers tuned in to the parade.

Triumph

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Searing Siblings Add to Holiday Joy

Special Olympics duo ready for Christmas.

It's safe to say that Special Olympics New York athletes and siblings Dan and Amy Searing make Christmas a little extra special for their family in Long Island.

"There will always be Christmas in our house because of the anticipation they have," said their mother, Cathy Searing. "And they each get something different from it."

Dan and Amy, who were adopted by Cathy and her husband John when they were young, are just two of six Searing children. They are now 21 and 22 years old, respectively, and are devoted Special Olympics athletes.

"We've adopted three children, including Dan and Amy," Cathy said. "After I had my third child, I had a miscarriage and I took it hard. I love kids, but I didn't want to go through that again. A woman across the street encouraged us to try foster care, which led to adoption."

While there have been challenges along the way – according to Cathy, "When a child is handicapped, they have to work four times harder than a non-handicapped person" – the rewards have far outweighed

those challenges.

"Amy and Dan have both achieved so much," Cathy said. "When we started schooling Amy, we thought if she learned



Photo provided by the Searing family

Members of the Searing family gather around Ember, the family dog, at Christmas-time. Pictured are (left to right): Michele, Matt, John, Amy (standing) and Dan.

to read and write her name we'd be ahead of the game. But where she and Dan are now is phenomenal."

Both won gold medals in the pool at the 2003 Special Olympics New York Summer Games. Perhaps more importantly, both

understand the importance of education.

Amy graduated from North Country Learning Center two years ago. She now attends Maryhaven Performing Arts Center, where she partakes in theater productions.

In June, Dan graduated from Longwood High School, where he received the Suffolk County Student of the Year Award. He currently works as a culinary aid at Stonybrook Veteran's Home.

"Cooking is his thing," Cathy said. "We start preparing for Christmas weeks ahead of time. We plan the menu, we make cookies together. That's what he gets out of Christmas. To him, putting a meal on the table means more than opening presents."

Amy, on the other hand, begins her preparations months before the cold weather hits.

"She starts her Christmas list in July," said Cathy, laughing. ■ JF

Special Olympics Athletes Party at Barney's

Photographer donates proceeds from book sales to SONY.

On Oct. 15, Special Olympics New York athletes Craig Ludin, Mary Pannese and Debra Ellis took in the sights at the very upscale Barney's New York, which featured plenty of high-end clothes and celebrities, courtesy of international photographer Howard Schatz.

Schatz hosted a signing for his latest book, *Athlete*, at Barney's and he donated the proceeds from the evening's sales to SONY. *Athlete* is an examination of and a tribute to the human body, and it features 256 pages of photos.

Some of the athletes in the book, such as Tiki Barber of the New York Giants and three-time U.S.A. national rhythmic gymnastics champion Jessica Howard, were

in attendance at Barney's in Manhattan.

"I really enjoyed being with Tiki Barber and all the other people," said Ludin, who had a lengthy conversation on golf with legendary Giants tight end Howard Cross. He also spent time chatting with Schatz, as did Pannese and Ellis. "I enjoyed talking to them."

"It was rich having the Special Olympics athletes there," Schatz said. "We had a great time."

For more information on *Athlete*, visit amazon.com. ■ JF

Athlete



Photograph by
Howard Schatz

Foreword by George Vecsey Afterword by Ira Berkow

This Year's Class *Continued from P. 1*

Ellis of Staten Island.

A 15-year-veteran of SONY competitions, Burg competed in five different sports in 2002-03. Ellis has participated in Special Olympics events for 27 years.

As Global Messengers, Burg and Ellis will use the public speaking skills they learned to represent their fellow athletes throughout the state and to educate their communities about the abilities of people with mental retardation.

The emotional highlight of the weekend of training came when the Global Messengers presented their first speeches to a packed room.

Ellis, still floating from being named Female Athlete of the Year, called SONY President and Chief Executive Officer Neal Johnson up to join her.



Matt Odendahl

Debra Ellis of Staten Island, the Female Athlete of the Year, makes a point during a speech.

"I've known this man for 27 years," Ellis said. "And he is my best buddy. I want to thank you, Neal, for everything you have done for me."

"Our athletes are our greatest asset when it comes to spreading the mission of Special Olympics," Johnson said.

Golfer MaryAnne Silverstrim, meanwhile, had the entire room in tears when she spoke of competing at the World Games in Dublin. She thanked her coach and fellow athlete Kim Richards for following her through nine holes of pouring rain, saying she would never forget that.

Glenn Harrison, president of Glenn Harrison & Associates of Ballston Spa, has conducted the Global Messenger training free of charge every year since 1999. Harrison helps SONY's athletes build confidence, and develop communication skills and leadership qualities while improving their interpersonal relationships.

Athletes who complete Harrison's Global Messenger program go on to speak to civic groups, business leaders and



Matt Odendahl

In addition to Marisa, the Global Messenger class featured Michael Burg, Kathleen Cranston-Spadafora, Kristin Dzikiewicz, Debra Ellis, Jessica O'Brien, Erin Brigid O'Connor, Thomas Moran, Megan O'Hara, Sean O'Rourke, Kathleen Rogan, MaryAnne Silverstrim, Kelley Snedeker and Kajenea Tillman.

sponsors to encourage volunteer support, athlete participation, financial contributions and raise general awareness.

The 2003 Fall Conference and Awards Banquet focused on "Healthy Athletes, Strong Programs" and it was sponsored by the New York State Department of Health.

If you are interested in having a Global Messenger speak at your function, please call Doreen Hand at 212-661-3963 or e-mail her at dhand@nyso.org. For more information on the Global Messenger program, visit www.specialolympicsny.org.

■ DH

Awards Banquet Highlights the 2003 Fall Leadership Conference

Special Olympics New York honors its top volunteers, athletes and organizations.

For much of the 2003 Fall Conference and Awards Banquet (Nov. 14 to 16 at the Prime Hotel in Saratoga Springs), the spotlight shined brightly on Special Olympics New York's most valuable assets: The athletes.

However, the volunteers and organizations that fulfill Special Olympics New York's mission – they are, after all, the ones who deliver sports training and competition opportunities to SONY's athletes – also were honored.

The following awards were distributed:

Bryner Family of the Year: The Ludin Family

Watching the Ludins accept the Bryner Family of the Year Award, it was clear that it all starts with the athlete in the family:

Swimmer Craig Ludin thanked his family for helping him achieve his goals as an athlete.

The Ludin clan – the Long Island family

consists of Craig; his mom, Helene; his father, Mike; and his brothers, Brian and Evan – goes beyond Craig when it comes to support, though.

For example, Mike Ludin and fellow volunteer Rich Simone established the Tour for Champions golf tournament, at which all five Ludins volunteer annually. Additionally, Mike created the Huntington Boys Club Special Soccer Program.



Matt Odendahl

Swimmer Craig Ludin thanks his family (standing behind him) for their support after the Ludins were named Family of the Year.

4 Special Olympics New York

Dorothy Buehring Phillips Award: Nancy Logan

Nancy Logan (formerly Hogan) capped off a great year by winning the Dorothy Buehring Phillips Award, which is presented to a volunteer who has greatly contributed to the mission of SONY over an extended period of time.

Earlier in 2003, Logan was named one of



Matt Odendahl

Nancy Logan is flanked by SONY athlete Sean O'Rourke and President and CEO Neal Johnson.

the Top 100 Irish Americans by *Irish America* magazine, an honor earned in part by serving as a head Track & Field coach at the 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Ireland.

Nancy's career with SONY began 16 years ago, when she became a Rockland County coach. Since then, she has served SONY in nearly every capacity.

Herb Rosenblatt Award: Sylvia Korn

When Rochester's Sylvia Korn accepted the Herb Rosenblatt Award, which is presented to SONY's State Volunteer of the Year, she was greeted by cheers and calls for the homemade cookies she has brought to SONY events for the past 21 years.

Among Sylvia's many SONY contributions: As a member of the State Games committee, she has written Swimming and Golf competition manuals, as well as training guidelines for coaches; and she brought Golf training to Monroe County.

"I didn't bring cookies this weekend," said Sylvia, laughing, at the awards ceremony, "but I'll have them at Summer Games."

Fran Tokar Award: John Crosby

If John Crosby hadn't attended that Lions Club meeting 20 years ago, where a speaker encouraged members to get involved in Special Olympics, it's unclear where the Broome-Tioga Program would be today.

In the past two decades, John has done it all for SONY athletes throughout the Southern Tier and New York state: From washing uniforms to driving a team van; to chairing or serving on local and state committees; to organizing and running competitions; to managing the business of the Broome-Tioga Program.

And now he's won the Fran Tokar Award, presented to SONY's Area Coordinator of the Year.

Outstanding Coach: Terry Martinko

Despite the demands of running the SONY-Dutchess County Swim Tournament every year since its 1979 inception, Poughkeepsie's Terry Martinko always makes her swimmers her No. 1 priority.

Among her many tasks, Terry secures the YMCA as the practice and event facility; she writes the script for Opening Ceremonies; and she arranges for a Color Guard and an emcee.

Meanwhile, Terry requires athletes who would otherwise miss practice due to minor illnesses to attend and sit in the bleachers. Athletes who demonstrate exceptional effort and sportsmanship during practice sessions are rewarded with key roles during Opening Ceremonies of the Swim Tournament.

Outstanding Organization: Marist College

Marist College's support of SONY begins with the James J. McCann Recreation Center - Marist's fitness center serves as host to SONY's annual Section II Basketball, Power Lifting and Aquatics Tournament - but the college's goodwill extends well beyond its state-of-the-art sports facility.

The college allows SONY athletes to showcase their skills at halftime of a Marist basketball game and it runs SONY PSA's



Matt Odendahl

Michael Burg of Belle Harbor (center) was named Male Athlete of the Year.

during television broadcasts of its basketball games.

Additionally, for the above-mentioned sectional, Marist donates the McCann Center and arranges for food, first aid, Opening Ceremonies entertainment, volunteers and parking attendants.

Simply put, Marist College helps SONY fulfill its mission.

Outstanding Local Program: Staten Island

When the Staten Island crew won the Outstanding Local Program Award, they put SONY - Staten Island athletes Debra Ellis and Nicholas Derouaux in the center of their group photo op.

In addition to great photo ops, SONY - Staten Island also provides high-quality sports programs and social activities to



Matt Odendahl

SONY - Staten Island took up the entire stage after earning Outstanding Local Program.

Staten Island athletes.

According to Training Director Joanne Certo and Athlete Outreach Coordinator Jo Ann Young: "The experience of the longtime coaches, combined with the enthusiasm of new coaches and volunteers, provides a catalyst for Staten Island to develop new and creative training and competitive opportunities for Staten Island's athletes." ■ JF & JS

Around the State



Capital District Region

◆ A former New York state resident recently ripped through some thick books in an effort to get into another thick book – the 2004 “Guinness Book of Records.” Rick “Bell” Belden, a Hague native who now lives in North Carolina, set a world record by ripping 19 telephone books in half in three minutes at a Special Olympics North Carolina fund-raiser.

◆ Global Messenger Brienne Nobis served as a guest speaker at the recent Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference women’s volleyball championship tournament. A 23-year-old from Guilderland, Nobis encouraged the MAAC’s athletes to continue to “reach for their dreams.”

Central New York Region

◆ When Special Olympics New York athlete Jim Tallman’s bike was stolen outside of the Wal-Mart in Oswego recently, the store came to the rescue and replaced the bike.

Long Island Region

◆ Not only did cyclist Will Pennino, swimmer Melissa Gallagher and runner Jim Diver team up to finish fourth in their division at the 2003 Vytra-TOBAY Triathlon in Oyster Bay, they did it for a good cause. The trio raised more than \$700 for Special Olympics through contributions from co-workers and Vytra, Chase and Reckson.

◆ Singer Michael Amante performed with the Nassau Pops Symphony Orchestra at the orchestra’s 15th annual benefit for Special Olympics New York – Long Island on Oct. 19. Amante has had leading roles in musicals such as *La Boheme* and *Madame Butterfly*, and he has sung for people such as Pope John Paul II and Luciano Pavarotti.

◆ A trio of Special Olympics volunteers – seniors Meghan Rose from Garden City and Troy Turri from West Islip, and David Salemi, a junior from Half Hollow High School East – recently earned “Scholar Athlete” status from *Newsday*. Rose is a two-time all-state field hockey star who also recorded a 1,360 SAT score. Turri, who scored 1,380 on the SAT, quarterbacked West Islip’s football team this past season, throwing for four touchdowns and rushing for seven more. A two-year starter for Half Hollow’s baseball team, Salemi is a regular volunteer at SONY – Long Island events.

Help Special Olympics Athletes with Your Online Holiday Shopping

Just point, click and buy a gift at www.sosshopping.com.

The gift you purchase online this holiday season can also become a gift for the 40,000 athletes served by Special Olympics New York. At no cost to you.

Through the free Special Olympics Shop & Support Program, shoppers sign up once at www.sosshopping.com, and then visit any one of 400 online retailers. A percentage of each purchase is donated by the retailer to Special Olympics. There is no extra charge to the customer.

The program includes most retail categories and most major retailers, including L.L.Bean, Target, eBay, The Gap and 1-800-Flowers. There are Web sites for everyone, like pet owners (PetSmart.com), computer users (Dell.com and Sonestyle.com), travelers (Travelocity.com), collectors (Collectiblestoday.com) and sportsmen (Thesportsauthority.com).

“We believe that this inventive program has enormous potential for our athletes and for the future of our program here in New York,” said Neal J. Johnson, president and chief executive officer of SONY. “Online shoppers have tremendous buying power, especially during the holiday season. I also



like it because there’s never a line at Target.com.”

The Shop & Support Program is a joint project of Special Olympics and Saratoga Springs-based WURLD media, Inc. To access the program, visit www.sosshopping.com or visit www.specialolympicsny.org. Simply follow the prompts, and make sure to enter your New York zip code. If you’d like to track the donations you are helping to generate, you can provide more demographic information, which is also secure.

For more information, call Rebecca Rickert at 518-388-0793 or e-mail rrickert@nyso.org. ■ JS

NYSCOPBA Puts Out a Call for Supporters

New phone plans will benefit Special Olympics New York.

The New York State Correctional Officers and Police Benevolent Association (NYSCOPBA) is offering Special Olympics New York supporters a unique opportunity to help their favorite athletes.

When you sign up for a telephone calling package through Excel – VarTec Telecom and NYSCOPBA’s “Connections for Kids” program, up to 10 percent of your monthly price plan will assist the organization of your choice. SONY is one of five charity options.

Connections for Kids offers three plans: MyLine Complete Plan is \$49.95 per month and includes local and unlimited long

distance calls in the U.S.A. and Canada; MyLine Value Plan is \$39.95 per month and includes long distance service at 4.9 cents per minute; and MyLine Great Price Plan is \$29.95 per month and includes long distance service at 6.9 cents per minute.

There are no contracts to sign and there is no cost to switch carriers.

Additionally, all three plans offer the convenience of just one bill. For more information, call 1-800-697-4371 or visit www.creativesolutionsgrp.com/connections/kids.htm.

And, if you sign up, don’t forget to designate Special Olympics New York as your charity! ■ JF

Point of View

By Caitlin Degnan

Today, everyone is asked so often to help other people through charitable organizations. On the television, radio and through the mail and newspapers, we are asked to donate money to many different charities. I am writing to let you know that I have found a great way to really help people: Volunteering your time to do charity work makes a real contribution to many people.

There are so many reasons why it is important for us to volunteer while we are in college. We are working every day toward our academic goals.

Through volunteering, we can have fun, improve our resumes, and feel a sense of accomplishment. Best of all, though, we can directly and profoundly help other people. By spending a small amount of time and effort, we can make a huge difference and have a direct impact on people's lives.

Volunteering for charity helps us share our skills and learn new things. We meet people who may be in a different place or facing obstacles unfamiliar to us. It is a way

to understand and learn from each other.

Volunteering to do meaningful work for a charity provides a great feeling in a very short time.

I recently volunteered at a Plane Pull to raise money for

Special Olympics. We had the opportunity to meet a great athlete named Kevin Brown. Kevin is a mentally challenged man who participates in Special Olympics. Along with sharing many stories with us, he described the many medals he has won while participating in Special Olympics.

Taking part in Special Olympics and

earning awards are a great source of pride for Kevin.

For me, talking to Kevin was the first time that I spoke directly to someone who explained how much the program meant to him and other athletes. After talking to

“I came away from the event with a feeling of being appreciated. My only contribution was time. I got back so much more than I gave.”

– Caitlin Degnan

Kevin, I really understood how volunteering for a charity has much more than a financial impact. The effort has a direct impact and is greatly appreciated.

I volunteered because someone asked for my help. What I got in return was an immeasurable sense of doing the right thing. It gave me a new perspective on life; you don't have to work hard or make a long-term commitment to make a difference. Helping others does not have to be time consuming. It doesn't require a lot of skill. It just takes a willingness to help.

I came away from the Plane Pull with a feeling of being appreciated. My only contribution was time. I got back so much more than I gave.

If you are you looking for something where you can feel a sense of accomplishment and achievement in a very short time, or if you are interested in making new friends and being part of a team effort, I have a great suggestion for you – volunteer to do charity work.

Point of View is written periodically. Caitlin Degnan is a student at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy. To submit a Point of View idea, contact Jeff Foley at 518-388-0793 or jfoley@nyso.org. ■

Letters

Hi:

My name is Joe Iaconis. I am a Global Messenger for Special Olympics. Special Olympics has changed my life a great deal.

I have played Special Olympics Basketball and Bowling. I have also coached Basketball.

When I was in high school I couldn't play sports because I wasn't considered good enough. Then a friend of mine, Joe Tastrom, got me into playing (Special Olympics) Basketball. Our team won the gold medal in Albany. Joe then got me to go with him to Buffalo to take a course on how to become a Global Messenger.

Since then I have been to Atlanta, Buffalo and other parts of New York state to speak about Special Olympics. Just recently, I co-hosted the Fall Games with Yolanda Vega in Seneca Falls. It just proves that there is something for everyone if you don't give up.

Joe Iaconis

Editor's Note: The following letter was written to Walter Kopczuk, SONY's vice president of Program.

I am a volunteer for Special Olympics New York. I have a title. I am an Area Coordinator. My title makes me no more or less valuable than the other volunteers of SONY.

I have many responsibilities. I do some of these very well and others not as well, but I try and fulfill all of my responsibilities. I enjoy myself almost all of the time I volunteer (does anyone really enjoy filling out accreditation forms?). I, like many of the other volunteers, have a full-time job and volunteer during my "free time." I volunteer because I choose to do so and because I believe in the mission and ideals of Special Olympics.

Soon, however, because of regionalization, my title will be eliminated. My value and worth to SONY will not be. In fact, my value and worth will increase because I will be able to focus all of my energy on my strengths. My enjoyment will also increase because I will be doing what I enjoy, and allowing others to do the jobs I am not good at. Again, I do this because I choose to do so, and because I believe in the mission and ideals of Special Olympics.

I am a volunteer for Special Olympics New York.

Kathi Nolan



Caitlin Degnan



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Picture of the Month



Matt Odendahl

Athlete Jessica
O'Brien, from
Johnson City, high-
fives Global
Messenger trainer
Glenn Harrison.

2004 Calendar of Events

JANUARY

24 Section 1 & 2 Floor Hockey, NYC

FEBRUARY

7 Section 2 Hockey
7 Alpine Skiing - Central Region
20-22 Winter Games, Nevele Grande, Ellenville
TBD Alpine & Nordic Skiing - Southern Tier
TBD Nordic Skiing - Capital District, Saratoga
TBD LI Area Floor Hockey, Farmingdale HS

MARCH

7 LI Bowling Tournament, 12 Different Locations in LI
21 Long Island Swim Tournament, Suffolk JCC

APRIL

17 Section 4 Basketball and Aquatics, Oswego
24 Section 1 Basketball and Aquatics, Fordham
25 Section 2 Basketball and Aquatics, Marist
TBD LI Area Aquatics Invitational, TBD
TBD LI Unified Tennis Tournament, TBD

* For more details, please contact Special Olympics New York office.

Mission: To provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-style sports for children and adults with mental retardation, 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.