



2017 NEWSLETTER

July already, wow! We are back from a great time had by all at the State Summer games in Spearfish, and looking forward to the Fall Classic season. We want to share a number of new and exciting things with each of you.



You still have time to complete an application, by **August 31**, to join the State Delegation in Seattle next year. South Dakota will have a group of 44 athletes and seven unified partners, participating in the following sports: Aquatics, Athletics, Bocce and Unified Bocce, Basketball and Unified HS Basketball, and Softball. For more information, you may call the State Office at 331-4117, go to www.SOSD.org or www.sosiouxfalls.org Congratulations to Brandon Sandoval for being named the Athletics Head Coach, and to Chad Hellenga, who will be the Head Basketball Coach.

Coaches Training:

A good way to become a better coach and mentor to the athletes is through the Training process that the State Office provides throughout the year. A reminder that in order to be a head coach, you must be Level 2 Certified, and there are several more levels beyond that for even more knowledge. Thank you to all our coaches for the time and effort you give to the athletes. For more information on the different trainings and levels, you may contact the State Office, or Heather at heather.l@sosiouxfalls.org.

Upcoming Events

- Aug 19 SE Area Softball Tourney
Sioux Falls
- Sep 15-17 Fall Classic (Bocce/Softball)
Mitchell
- Oct 21 SE Area Traditional Bowling Tourney
Sioux Falls
- Oct 28 SE Area Unified Bowling Tourney
Mitchell
- Nov 3-5 State Traditional Bowling Tourney
Aberdeen
- Nov 18-19 State Unified Bowling Tourney
Sioux Falls

Where will the games be played?		
Basketball:	Summer Games:	Fall Classic
		2017 Mitchell
2018 Mitchell	2018 Brookings	2018 Mitchell
2019 Pierre	2019 Brookings	2019 Rapid City
2020 Mitchell	2020 Spearfish	2020 Mitchell
2021 Pierre	2021 Up for Bid	2021 Rapid City

Sioux Falls Fireworks Committee:

- Chad Hellenga, Chair
- Justin Haper, Vice Chair
- Elaine Hoover, Secretary
- Misty Farabee, Treasurer
- Annie First
- Shelly Miller
- Caitlin Borges
- Emily Loos

Committee members are elected for a 3-year term. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please contact Chad Hellenga at chad.h@sosiouxfalls.org or speak with any of the committee's members.



SOSD Family of the Year, The Eeten's



Art, Fern, Roy and Stacey Eeten have been actively involved with the Sioux Falls Fireworks for many years in support of their son and grandson, Nick Mills. The Eeten's are involved in all areas of Special Olympics, coaching basketball, soccer, track, and softball. Roy is also Nick's Unified bowling partner. The Eeten's help with fundraising events and lend a hand where ever needed. They often have a car load after each practice by helping athletes that do not have transportation. Congratulations and a big Thank You to the Eeten family.

Spirit of Champions Winner



Rich brings great skills and athleticism to any field or court, and has been doing so for over thirty years. More importantly, Rich is well known for his team play, calm demeanor, and overall sportsmanship he displays each and every tournament. He continues to compete and improve even as he ages. He has represented South Dakota at two USA Games and represented the United States at the 1995 World Games in Connecticut. Congratulations Rich, you represent yourself, the Fireworks, and SOSD with honor.

Athlete: Lee Wentzel – Torch Run



Lee "Mad Dog" Wentzel proudly carrying the torch before the 2017 Summer Games on behalf of his fellow athletes and the Fireworks! Lee is a long time athlete in many sports, known for his towering hits and great rebounding skills. Good job Lee, you rock!!

Howard Wood Relays



Perhaps the most prestigious Track Meet in South Dakota, we are also thankful to the Howard Wood Relays for allowing Special Olympics to participate in both a Female and Male 100M Dash each year. The Meet Officials are wonderful to work with, and just outright thoughtful and kind to the athletes. Not just the officials, either. Other coaches and athletes from multiple states always cheer loudly and make the runners feel welcome in every way.

Bocce



We love Bocce yes we do, we love Bocce how bout you!! Our newest sport was well received last year and looking forward to even more participation this season. It is an easy to learn, and fun to play sport for all levels and ages of athletes.



FUNDRAISING

Below are the 2016 average costs per athlete for each sport.

Basketball (98)	\$68/athlete
Spring Games (65)	\$45/athlete
Softball/Bocce (113)	\$86/athlete
Traditional Bowling (59)	\$159/athlete
Unified Bowling (72)	\$38/athlete

The number in () is the number of athletes that participated in the state event in 2015.

Athletes do not pay to participate – these costs are covered through our fundraising events and donations.

Fundraising \$\$ is very important!

In 2016 we had the following fundraisers:

Soup Supper	\$1183
Polar Plunge	\$9273
Golf Classic	\$25,868
St Patrick's Day Buttons	\$2186
Stampede/Chuck-a-Puck	\$2400
Pigskin Madness	<u>\$1620</u>
Totaling:	\$42,530

In addition, we rely on donations from many generous people in our delegation and our community.

In 2016 we received \$20,959 in donations. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Some Employers offer grants or incentive programs for volunteerism benefitting a non-profit of your choice. Please take advantages of these programs!

Fundraising Committee

Andra & Larry Kallhoff, Co-Chairs

Elaine Hoover, Secretary

Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

We usually meet at the Main library downtown.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join!



THE 11TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNEY WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, AT ELMWOOD GOLF COURSE. SHOTGUN START AT 12:30 SHARP.

Email Collin at: ckollars@sio.midco.net for more information or to help with the event.

Wowwy Wow Wow!!!



A big **THANK YOU** to SAMMONS FINANCIAL and their incredibly generous donation of \$10,000 to the Fireworks! There are also SAMMONS' employees who volunteer in various roles for the Fireworks and we thank them for their time.



Another way to support the Fireworks is to buy, and/or sell, **PIGSKIN MADNESS** tickets. The fundraiser is incredibly simple, each ticket lasts all NFL season long, and SOSF keeps \$10 for each one sold. For more information, contact Elaine, Elaine.h@sosiouxfalls.org



Volunteer Opportunities:

The Sioux Falls Fireworks would not exist today without the time, energy, dedication, and commitment of our dedicated volunteers. We need more families, friends and community members to volunteer. The following positions are currently open.

Traditional Bowling Volunteers: Volunteers need to ensure athletes remain in their lane, bowl when it is their turn, bowl in the correct lane and CHEER! Practices are once per week on Saturday late morning/early afternoon.

Basketball Coaches: Volunteers with previous basketball coaching or playing experience to coach a team of 8-10 athletes once per week. Coaches are required to attend the Area and State tournaments.

Basketball and Softball Unified Partners: Play on a basketball or softball team with the Special Olympics athletes. Unified partners are required to attend practice once per week and tournaments.

Bocce Ball Volunteers: Assist athletes at practice to keep them on task and focused on the training.

Fundraising Volunteers: Lead or assist with fund-raising events. There are a variety of opportunities.

Logistics: Plan and organize meals and hotel rooms for out-of-town travel events.

Recruitment: Promote Special Olympics within the Sioux Falls community to find new athletes and volunteers.

Uniforms: Manage and organize athlete and volunteer uniforms.

NOTE: please visit www.sosioxford.org and select the "Volunteers" tab for a complete description of each open position.

Volunteer Appreciation

On July 6, SOSF hosted a Volunteer Appreciation at the Unify Center. A lot of good food, especially the cake, was served and many people came to visit fellow volunteers and athletes. A complimentary water bottle was also given to all registered volunteers, as a small token of our appreciation of all the effort given towards our athletes. A repeat **Thank You** to all our Volunteers that give throughout the year!!

Let Us Know! Athletes/Coaches/Volunteers

Keep us updated if you have a new address, phone#, email.

Please email updates to Becky.b@sosioxford.org



Our Website

www.sosioxford.org - a great resource for information on upcoming sports, practices and fundraisers.

We have Spiritwear!

Everyone be sure and thank Becky Brennan for taking on this project and doing such a fine job! We have added several options to our SPIRIT collection as the items have been very well received. Please email Becky if you are interested in buying Fireworks Spiritwear (Becky.b@sosioxford.org) or watch for the Spiritwear table at coming events.

Mission

The Mission of Special Olympics South Dakota is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children (8 years and older) and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.