



2018 NEWSLETTER

End of another great year! The Fireworks Committee wishes everyone a happy and festive holiday season. As we reflect on the past year and all of the exciting events that showcased the talents of our athletes, we also look forward with excitement to a wonderful 2019. Please enjoy the information in this Newsletter, and pay particular attention to any Volunteer opportunities that may be right for you.



These games were an event for the ages! Special Olympics really does know how to put on a celebration. There were great opening and closing ceremonies, the city of Seattle was incredibly welcoming, and the weather was great. The countless volunteers did a nice job and the athletes were enthralled with it all. Every South Dakota athlete contributed to their respective sport and played to the best of their ability. You can see photos of the event on the SOSD.org Facebook page.

FACEBOOK:

The Fireworks have an updated Facebook page, chock full of fun facts, information, and great photos. Along with the website, this is the way to stay up to date and informed about what is going on with Special Olympics, both in Sioux Falls and statewide. Simply find Special Olympics Sioux Falls Fireworks on Facebook and you are ready to go. Make sure to “Like” the page to spread it to others. Thank you to Tracy Donovan for keeping this up for the Fireworks.

2019 Upcoming Events

February 16	SE Area Basketball/Cheer Yankton
March 23-24	State Basketball/Cheer Mitchell
April 27	SE Area Athletics Competition Sioux Falls
May 3	SE Area Swim Competition Sioux Falls
May 16-18	State Summer Games Vermillion
August 24	SE Area Softball Tournament Sioux Falls
Sept. 20-22	Fall Classic, Bocce/Softball Rapid City
October 20	SE Area Traditional Bowling Sioux Falls
October 27	SE Area Unified Bowling Mitchell
Nov. 8-10	State Traditional Bowling Aberdeen
Nov. 16-17	State Unified Bowling Sioux Falls

2019 Sioux Falls Fireworks Committee:

- Justin Haper, Chair
- Caitlin Borges, Secretary
- Misty Farabee, Treasurer
- Annie First
- Shelly Miller
- Larry Kallhoff
- Maren VanLuvanee
- JT Donovan

Committee members are elected for a 3-year term. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please contact Justin Haper at justin.h@sosioxfalls.org, or speak with any of the Committee’s members.



In Loving Memory, Lyle Farrand



Special Olympics of South Dakota lost one of its biggest supporters this past year and he will be missed. Lyle Farrand brought Special Olympics to South Dakota in 1968. He was an integral and continuing piece to the foundation of success over the next several decades, a foundation on which we all stand and enjoy today. Sports for people with disabilities changed forever in 1968, and Lyle set the course for countless athletes to show their skills, build self esteem, make new friends, and of course, win those medals. Lyle's impact will never be forgotten.

2018 Coach of the Year



Another honor, Cort Hansen has been chosen as the South Dakota Coach of the Year. Cort has been coaching with the Fireworks for several years and has also recruited several friends to the group. He is heavily involved with the Unified teams and assists with other sports and open gyms as well. Cort brings a youthful exuberance to Special Olympics and the athletes love to play on his teams. Thank you Cort.

2018 Athlete of the Year



The Fireworks own Noah Pierce has earned the high honor of being selected as the South Dakota 2018 Athlete of the Year. Noah participates in many sports, but really loves to show off his three point shooting ability when the game is on the line. Noah also attended the Seattle games as a Softball player, helping them take home the Gold. Congratulations Noah, we are proud of you.

2017 Athlete of the Year



Last year's Newsletter came out prior to the State Awards and Great News! The 2017 Athlete of the Year was Bruce Wheeldryer. Bruce has been with Special Olympics seemingly forever and is a staple at almost every sporting event in the state. He is well known across the state, well liked by everyone, and gives his all every time. Bruce has attended more than one USA Games and represents South Dakota with class. Great job as always Bruce!



FUNDRAISING

Being the largest delegation in the state has its benefits, but can also be very expensive. Our athletes do not pay to participate, rather, the Fireworks covers the cost of participation through our Fundraising efforts and donations. Fundraising can be busy work but we also have a lot of fun and we would love to have you join in. I have highlighted some of our bigger fundraisers in the next column, along with contact information.

Fundraising \$\$ is very important!

In 2018 we had the following fundraisers:

Basketball Tourney	\$11272
Soup Supper	\$1173
Polar Plunge	\$2219
Golf Classic	\$25,485
St Patrick's Day Buttons	\$2683
Stampede/Chuck-a-Puck	\$2271
Pigskin Madness	\$370
Pars and Pubs	<u>\$1159</u>
Totaling:	\$46632

In addition, we rely on donations from many generous people in our delegation and our community. So far in 2018 we have received \$6,439 in donations. All donations are greatly appreciated.

We also accept grants, and some Employers offer grants or incentive programs for volunteerism benefitting a non-profit of your choice. Please take advantage 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 Fireworks organization will sponsor our second Basketball tournament, called Heat Em Up. This Tournament will take place in Tea, on Friday, January 25, and Saturday, January 26. Featured are travel teams from SD, IA, and MN that will compete for experience and bragging rights. This tournament requires gyms in three different buildings to operate. We need your help to cover the various volunteer duties needed to make this a success. Please contact misty.f@sosiouxfalls.org for more information.



If you are festive and enjoy parades, then we have the fundraiser for you. We sell St. Patrick's Day buttons before and during the parade here in Sioux Falls. This is a great event for Sioux Falls and the Fireworks. If interested, contact Andra at andra.k@sosiouxfalls.org



THE 13TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNEY WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 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.



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 during bowling season.

Coaches: Volunteers coach a team of 8-10 athletes once per week throughout a season and during tournaments. Coaching is a great way to build relationships with athletes. No worries for inexperience, sport specific training is provided to you.

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 bussing, 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.sosioxfalls.org and select the "Volunteers" tab for a complete description of each open position.

Volunteer Appreciation

The Fireworks is a very large Volunteer organization. It takes many volunteers to continue to provide great and meaningful opportunities for our athletes. If any of the aforementioned volunteer positions seem appealing to you, please inquire with someone on the Committee, or current HOD, or call 336-0240 for more information. All of our volunteers are very much appreciated for the year round efforts to keep the Fireworks going.

Let Us Know! Athletes/Coaches/Volunteers

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

Please email updates to Becky.b@sosioxfalls.org



Our Website

www.sosioxfalls.org - a great resource for information on upcoming sports, practices and fundraisers. **Also, don't forget to check out our Facebook page for the latest photos and other important updates.**

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@sosioxfalls.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.