



## For Immediate Release

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### **SPECIAL OLYMPICS PENNSYLVANIA TO HOLD ANNUAL WESTERN SPRING SECTIONAL AT CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY**

*Over 800 Athletes & Coaches Will Come To Campus Saturday, April 27th*

**(Norristown, PA, April 17, 2019)** – More than 800 Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) athletes and coaches will travel to Carnegie Mellon University, located at 5000 Forbes Ave, Pittsburgh, PA, for the annual Western Spring Sectional on Saturday, April 27, 2019. Athletes from a number of western Pennsylvania programs will compete in team and individual events in four sports including athletics, basketball, golf, and swimming. Over 300 enthusiastic volunteers recruited from the university, area clubs, organizations, schools and individuals from the community, will give of their time to support the day's activities and cheer on athletes.

The 2019 Western Spring Sectional will kick-off with Opening Ceremonies held at Carnegie Mellon University Gesling Stadium at 9:00 am. Erie County athlete Roy Kelly will emcee the ceremony alongside CMU Provost James Garrett.

All competitions will begin at 10:00 am and run until 5:45 pm. Additionally, events in basketball 3v3 and 5v5 will serve as qualifiers for state [Summer Games](#) at Penn State University in June. Teams will be drawn after the sectional.

This event requires volunteers from the western part of the state to serve as officials, athlete escorts, award presenters, and in various other ways. For more information about volunteering, visit [www.specialolympicspa.org](http://www.specialolympicspa.org).

Volunteers and spectators are welcome to visit any of the competition venues and cheer-on the athletes. There is no charge to attend SOPA competitions for athletes, volunteers or spectators.

**For a full schedule of the day's events, please contact Wenona Sutton at 610-630-9450, ext. 219, or the event contact Mike Ermer, (607) 435-0693.**

#### **About Special Olympics Pennsylvania**

Special Olympics Pennsylvania provides year-round training and competition to nearly 20,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities in a variety of Olympic-type sports, 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. For more information on how the movement inspires greatness, visit our web site at [www.specialolympicspa.org](http://www.specialolympicspa.org).

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