



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WASHINGTON COUNTY HONORED BY  
SPECIAL OLYMPICS PENNSYLVANIA AS PROGRAM OF THE YEAR**

(Norristown, PA, August 29, 2019) – Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) recently honored Washington County with the Program of the Year award during its Leadership Conference Banquet at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center in State College, PA on Saturday, August 17, 2019.

In the past year alone, Washington County added three new sports to its offerings: long distance running & walking, powerlifting and soccer. They also added swimming and basketball to a local invitational, which helped increase athlete participation and awareness of the program.

In addition Washington County proudly offered a Fit Feet screening, that allows athletes in attendance to receive free health screenings on their feet, at that invitational and continues to host a wildly-successful golf outing every August. Over the past year, they have formed a strong partnership with a neighboring county that enabled athletes to try new sports, compete in a more advanced level of basketball and grow community relations by recruiting more volunteers. Washington County holds a banquet every year to honor outstanding coaches and athletes and the proceeds from that event go directly back to the program.

**About The SOPA Leadership Awards**

SOPA Leadership Award recipients were chosen by a statewide panel of business and community leaders representing both the private and nonprofit sectors. Nominations come from local Special Olympics programs throughout Pennsylvania. The event is part of a yearly Leadership Conference designed to provide ongoing training and recognition for Special Olympics athletes and volunteers.

**About Special Olympics Pennsylvania**

Special Olympics Pennsylvania provides year-round training and competition in 21 Olympic-type sports to more than 20,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities. For more information on how the movement inspires greatness, visit our website at [www.specialolympicspa.org](http://www.specialolympicspa.org).

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