



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DESALES UNIVERSITY TO HOST ANNUAL SPECIAL OLYMPICS PENNSYLVANIA EASTERN FALL SECTIONAL *More 550 Athletes Return to In-Person Competition*

WHAT: **2021 Eastern Fall Sectional** – where more than 550 athletes will attend their first in-person competition since March 2020. Athletes will compete in team and individual events in five sports including bocce, long distance walking/running, powerlifting, soccer and volleyball (team and individual skills).

WHEN: **Sunday, October 3rd**

9 A.M.	Opening Ceremonies
10 A.M. - 5 P.M.	Competition & Awards
10 A.M. – 4 P.M.	Healthy Habits and Performance Stations
11 A.M. – 4 P.M.	Olympic Village

WHERE: **DeSales University**
2755 Station Ave., Center Valley, PA

WHO: More than 550 Special Olympics athletes as well as students and faculty from DeSales University.

****PLEASE NOTE: Masks are required indoors and outdoors, except when actively engaged in sports training and competition. ****

(NORRISTOWN, PA, September 29, 2021) – More than 550 Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) athletes and 264 coaches will travel to the DeSales University Campus, located at 2755 Station Ave., Center Valley, PA, for the annual Eastern Fall Sectional on Sunday, October 3, 2021.

Athletes from the Eastern part of Pennsylvania will compete in team and individual events in five sports including bocce (doubles & Unified Sports® doubles), long distance walking/running (traditional & Unified Sports®), powerlifting, soccer (Individual skill, 5v5, and 7v7) and volleyball (team and individual skills). Over 500 area volunteers recruited from the college, regional clubs, organizations, schools and surrounding community will give of their time to support the day's activities and cheer on the athletes.

The Eastern Fall Sectional will kick-off with Opening Ceremonies held at DeSales University's Turf Fields at 9:00 a.m. Competitions will begin at 10:00 a.m. and run until 5:00 p.m. All individual and team competitions will be held on campus at Billera Hall or the Stadium.



Athletes will have the opportunity to enjoy Olympic Village from 11:00 am – 4:00 pm outside of Billera Hall. Olympic Village offers athletes a variety of fun activities to keep them busy in between competitions. Numerous DeSales student clubs will set up booths and crafts tables, and area businesses will participate.

Athletes will also have the ability to gain understanding of how healthy habits affect sport performance and everyday life by visiting Healthy Habits interactive education stations. The Healthy Habits program, which is open to all athletes, will take place in Billera Concourse and at various sports venues from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Spectators, who are masked, 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. [Click here](#) to view a schedule of the day's events.

About Special Olympics Pennsylvania

Special Olympics Pennsylvania provides year-round training and competition in 21 Olympic-type sports to nearly 16,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities or closely related developmental disabilities. For more information about how you can join “The Inclusion Revolution,” visit www.specialolympicspa.org.

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Special Olympics Pennsylvania

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