



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FIRST ANNUAL SPECIAL OLYMPICS PENNSYLVANIA INDOOR WINTER GAMES COMES TO YORK COUNTY

Athletes to compete in four events throughout the county

(YORK, PA, February 13, 2019) – Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) will bring its new Indoor Winter Games to York County for the first time from March 2 - 3, 2019. More than 650 athletes are expected to showcase the hard work and commitment they have demonstrated during months of training and competing to qualify for these games. Cheered on by hundreds of coaches, loved ones, and members of the community, these games will truly demonstrate the strength of the human spirit.

The Indoor Winter Games committee is currently seeking volunteers to serve in specific roles including: general event volunteers to assist with athlete arrival, registration, bowling lane monitors, athlete escorts, meals prep, awards presenters, special events and more. Details about the volunteer registration process can be found on the [SOPA website](#).

The Indoor Winter Games, presented by York County Convention & Visitors Bureau (YCCVB), will feature four events that previously had been held on a standalone basis or as part of Special Olympics Pennsylvania's annual winter or summer games: floor hockey will take place at the York Expo Center, figure skating and speed skating at the York Ice Arena, and bowling at Laser Alleys and Colony Park Lanes North.

Before to the start of the inaugural Indoor Winter Games, SOPA will also play host to a Young Athletes exhibition from 9 - 10:30 a.m. at the York Expo Center. This exhibition will feature sports activities for bowling and floor hockey, as well as arts and crafts. Afterward, participants and their families will have the chance to participate in optional afternoon activities until 3 p.m. This event is not exclusive to current Young Athletes participants. Children of all abilities ages 2-7 within the greater York area are invited. Young Athletes and their families can learn more and [register online](#).

Opening Ceremonies, beginning at 11 a.m. on Saturday, will be emceed by FOX43 reporter Lynda Weed and a Special Olympics athlete at the York Expo Center. Opening will feature live entertainment including a performance by the York College Best Buddies, the arrival of the "Flame of Hope," and the lighting of the Olympic Cauldron to officially open the Games.

In addition, the weekend will offer Healthy Athletes® screenings, Healthy Habits interactive activities, and an "Olympic Village" providing athlete activities in-between sporting events.

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Following the Opening Ceremonies, competitions will begin at noon on Saturday. The first day of the event will wrap up with a dance and movie night for the athletes to enjoy. Competition will resume on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. with awards ceremonies starting at 1 p.m.

York County will also host the Indoor Winter Games in 2020 and 2021, with the possibility of extending the relationship even further into the future. These games will bring almost \$500,000 in economic benefits to the county.

Indoor Winter Games major event sponsors include the YCCVB as the presenting sponsor. Other sponsors are Lee Fence and Outdoor, Pasch Companies, FOX 43, York Ice Arena, LegUp Farm and WellSpan Health, which is also the official medical provider of the Indoor Winter Games.

About Special Olympics PA

Pennsylvania Special Olympics Pennsylvania provides year-round training and competition in 21 Olympic-type sports to nearly 20,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities or closely related developmental disabilities. For more information about how you can help “Reveal the Champion Inside” thousands of Special Olympics athletes, visit www.specialolympicspa.org. ###

About York County Convention & Visitors Bureau’s Sport York

The York County Convention & Visitors Bureau’s Sport York initiative is designed to recruit events and generate additional economic impact in York County. Sport York positions York County as Pennsylvania’s Premier Sports Destination, highlighting the area’s dynamic facilities and central location on the East Coast. For further information about Sport York, visit www.yorkpa.org/sports.

About York County Convention & Visitors Bureau

The York County Convention & Visitors Bureau’s Mission is to maximize tourism expenditures and their economic impact in York County, PA, through comprehensive tourism sales and marketing programs. The York County CVB’s Vision is for a York County where tourism is recognized for the value of its economic impact and its role in raising the profile of York County as a sought-after destination. For more information on the York County Convention & Visitors Bureau, call 1-888-858-9675 or visit www.yorkpa.org.

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