

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Special Olympics
Pennsylvania



Contacts: Hailey Fuzak, PR & Marketing Manager, 610-630-9450 ext. 219; hfuzak@specialolympicspa.org
Jessica Kury, Special Events Director, 586-243-0976, jkury@specialolympicspa.org

Special Olympics Pennsylvania to Host Pittsburgh's 5th Annual UNCathlon *Event Models a Decathlon & Adds Fundraising as an 11th Event*

Pittsburgh, PA (September 2, 2021) – Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) will host the fifth annual Pittsburgh UNCathlon on Sunday, September 19, 2021 at Peters Township High School in McMurray, PA from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The UNCathlon will offer 11 events, one more than the traditional 10 found in a decathlon, and feature physical challenges with fundraising accounting for the 11th event. The UNCathlon will bring persons with and without intellectual disabilities together to engage in Unified Sports with proceeds benefiting nearly 16,000 SOPA athletes.

The UNCathlon will involve several co-ed groups of six participants that include a Special Olympics athlete per team. Each Unified Sports® team will take part in 10 physical trials that test speed, strength and endurance. Challenge events will include rowing (two minutes timed), medicine ball burpees (two minutes timed), a two lap relay, one lap run, basketball free-throws (two minute timed), 20 yard shuttle, shot put, mini javelin, standing broad jump, and a mystery event. The 11th event will be the fundraising component that participants complete prior to engaging in the sporting events.

Special Olympics [Unified Sports®](#), in which players with and without intellectual disabilities train and compete on the same team, is designed to enable athletes to learn new sports, refine athletic skills, experience inclusion, socialize with peers, form new friendships, and participate in their communities outside of traditional Special Olympics events. The UNCathlon strives to create inclusion and acceptance through sport while raising funds and awareness for Special Olympics.

The UNCathlon was initiated by Pittsburgh resident Shannon Barry, who always dreamed of creating a national awareness fundraising campaign to bring recognition to a cause. Shannon's vision was to incorporate UNified play with UNconventional fun for an UNforgettable experience; and thus, the UNCathlon was born.

This year's event will be hosted by local DJ and Fireside Entertainment owner, Eric Burnett. 2021 UNCathlon Sponsors include: Aerotek; Award Sponsor, Baird; Photo Booth Sponsor, Julian Gray Associates; Sponsor an Athlete Team, Dollar Bank; and Competition Sponsors, True Fit Marketing and Case Specific Nutrition.

There are 16 teams registered to compete, including teams representing: ROG Gold Standard, Baird, PTHS Strength (Peters Township HS), PTHS Speed (Peters Township HS), SOPA Superstars sponsored by Dollar Bank, BABC, Mascaro, Boord, Benchek & Associates, CFML, PTDT Team Anna, PTDT Team Grace, Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire, Aerotek, NVR Pittsburgh, McMurray Rotary Club and TC Open Tribe. Team registrations are full and are no longer being accepted; but, if people wish to support the event, they can still register for the second annual [Virtual UNCathlon](#) for SOPA athletes while completing the 30 day plank challenge.

The event will not accept day-of walk up registrants; however, interested parties can still support participating athletes and participants through online donations. For more information about the event or to donate, visit www.uncathlon.org or call Jessica Kury at 724-375-7515, ext. 244.

All persons attending the in-person event taking place at Peters Township High School (including but not limited to coaches/sponsors, other adult personnel, students, etc.) shall wear a face covering at all times indoors, except while actively participating in vigorous athletic activity, eating or drinking.

About Special Olympics Pennsylvania

Special Olympics Pennsylvania provides year-round training and competition in 21 Olympic-type sports to approximately 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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