



Special Olympics
New York

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Dear EMS Provider:

Months of planning and hard work will soon result in a rewarding athletic experience for more than 2,000 athletes and coaches from across New York State return to the Capital District and the University at Albany for the 2007 Special Olympics New York Summer Games to be held June 14th through the 16th. These Games will provide athletes the opportunity to showcase the skills they have acquired through their months of training under certified volunteer coaches.

Special Olympics New York provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in over 20 sports for persons with intellectual disabilities. Founded by Dorothy Buehring Phillips, a long-time Albany resident, New York Special Olympics are recognized as one of the largest U.S. Chapters, serving more than 38,000 athletes from across the state. The Special Olympics philosophy is that with appropriate instruction people with intellectual disabilities can learn the skills necessary to compete in both individual and team sports. Special Olympics rules follow that of the National Governing Body for each sport offered.

What makes Special Olympics unique is its divisioning process. Athletes are placed in divisions within each event, with other athletes of similar and ability level. Unlike "typical" sports competitions, Special Olympics awards are given to each division within each event. This provides the athletes with a close, fair, competitive experience while accommodating the wide range of ability levels within each sport. The emphasis is placed on doing your personal best, following rules and demonstrating good sportsmanship. Many people feel that Special Olympics are sports in its purest form, where athletes compete for the love of the sport and the glory of personal achievement.

The combined efforts of the Local and State Organizing Committees, along with that of the Greater Nassau County will provide a world-class athletic environment for one of the most important competitive events of the year. Their commitment, along with that of community leaders, the private sector and the dedication of over one thousand local

volunteers will not only be instrumental in the success of the Games, but will make a significant difference in the lives of the athletes, their families and friends.

Special Olympics New York is now in the process of recruiting local volunteer EMT's, Athletic Trainers and other allied Health Care Professionals, whether individually or as an agency, to provide on-site EMS coverage during competitive and social events. Each volunteer will be provided an official uniform shirt, free parking and personal credentials for use during the Games.

Enclosed you will find a tentative schedule of events for Summer Games. This schedule indicates our estimated staffing needs, and an Emergency Services Volunteer Application Form has also been enclosed. Please feel free to copy this information and share it with your friends, family members and members of your agency and/or department.

Completed Emergency Services Volunteer Application Form must be returned no later than May 28th, 2007 by mail or fax directly to the Emergency Services Office, at the address or fax number displayed on the top of the of the Emergency Services Volunteer Application Form. This will enable us to finalize our master staffing and confirm your assignment in writing.

Volunteers are the driving force behind Special Olympics New York. Without people like you who give their time, Special Olympics athletes could not experience the joy and exhilaration that participation in competitive sports brings. Please consider volunteering as an Emergency Services Volunteer for the 2007 Summer Games.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

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Very truly yours,



David P. Burgess
Director of Emergency Services

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Enclosures