

Triumph

June 2005



Special Olympics
New York

Summer Games Schedule is Set

Athletes are ready for competition

The Special Olympics New York 2005 Summer Games are set and ready to go. All the venues for the eight events are now secure and athletes are preparing to show everyone what they are capable of. For an unprecedented third consecutive year, SONY's Summer Games are returning to the Hofstra campus. This is the first time in SONY's 35 year history that a state summer game has stayed in one location for more than two consecutive years.

Nearly 3,000 athletes and coaches will compete in basketball, bowling, gymnastics, powerlifting, swimming, tennis, track & field and volleyball. "Being the largest event that SONY puts on it involves a lot of planning," said Vice President of Competition, Peter Lawrence. "Luckily, with

everyone pitching in, we're ready to let the games begin. We'd like to thank everyone on our local organizing committee as well as the staff at Hofstra University for their help, without them we would not be able to provide such a great event," said Lawrence.

The Special Olympics New York 2005 Summer Games are sponsored by: New York State Lottery, New York State United



Teachers, Fraternal Order of Police, Cablevision, Mattel, Met Life, Goldman Sachs, Symbols Technologies, Ridgewood Savings Bank, United Nations Federal Credit Union, Deloitte & Touche, LUKOIL/Getty, HealthNow, Cullen & Dykman, GEICO, The Federation of New York Insurance Professionals. ■

Long Island Athlete Goes the Distance in the Boston Marathon



Sean O'Rourke from Bay Shore, Long Island completed his seventh marathon this spring, when he ran the 109th Boston Marathon on Monday, April 18th. Accompanying him were his father and coach Gary O'Rourke and Heidi Lindsay, Regional Director of Special Olympics New York – Long Island. "It was so exciting to be there cheering for Sean and supporting him. When we first noticed he was passing by, he actually stopped to give me a hug!" said Lindsay.

The runners started in Hopkinton, MA and finished in Boston. The day started at a pleasant 70° and held throughout the race.



Sean's times were great and he finished with a total time of 4 hours, 38 minutes and 1 second. Sean placed fourth in the half-marathon at the Special Olympics International World Games in Ireland three years ago.

Now 28 years old, Sean has been involved with SONY for 14 years and competes in cross country, cycling, speed skating and track and field. He has also competed in bowling and softball. Sean represents the organization as a Global Messenger, and was the 2004 Long Island Athlete of the Year. Congratulations Sean, on a fantastic race! ■

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A Message from the President

Neal J. Johnson, President & CEO of Special Olympics New York, Inc.



During my many years associated with SONY I have come to believe that the greatness of our organization is rooted firmly in the determination, enthusiasm and joy of our athletes. Just when you think the caliber of competi-

tion is about as good as it gets our athletes find ways to move it up a notch. Last year at Summer Games we saw some spectacular performances in power lifting, track and field and basketball. I know from personal experience that all who attend the 2005 Games will be amazed even further.

As I think about the upcoming 2005

Summer Games I am filled with conflicting emotions. Part of me is feeling the increasing excitement and joy as we draw closer to returning to Hofstra University for our third consecutive year. At the same time I know that I, and the SONY staff, will be sorry to leave a great venue and an extremely generous community. Yet, like any good family, our athletes, our staff, our sponsors and our volunteers will do their best to thoroughly enjoy the moments they are together. If last year was any indication of things to come, a great time will be had by all.

In the spirit of the Athletes Oath, I am not counting the days to when we will be leaving Long Island but I am looking forward to the day we return. In the meantime, our athletes will take center stage

in many other giving communities and impress the people in them with their immense talents. Along the way lives will be changed for the better. That is the true magic of Special Olympics.

In the short space of this column it would be impossible to thank all the people responsible for the wondrous time we have had in Long Island. As I visit the competition sites at the 2005 Summer Games I know I will be doing a lot of handshaking, backslapping and hugging. If I happen to miss your hand or not see your back please know that the SONY staff, the athletes and I are eternally grateful for all you do and are privileged to have spent time with you. All we ask is that you keep a light on because we'll be back before you know it. ■

Around the Regions

Central Region

Special Olympians to participate in Tiger Woods Foundation golf clinic

The Tiger Woods Foundation has selected the city of Syracuse as a host site for the Foundation's 2005 "In the City" Junior Golf Clinic. Syracuse was one of four cities chosen to participate in the clinic which will be held August 11th and 12th at Bellevue Country Club. One hundred fifty young golfers, including some from Special Olympics, will participate in the clinic. It will be followed by a festival at Burnet Park on Saturday,

August 13th. Activities scheduled for the festival include golf activities, a Health and Human Service Agency Fair, a Youth Sports Organization Fair, arts and crafts and live entertainment. The "In the City" clinic culminates with the selection of top junior golfers who will participate in the annual Tiger Woods Foundation Youth Clinic – a three-day junior event that includes tickets to Disney Resorts; a pitch, putt, and drive skills tournament, a junior golf clinic, and an exhibition by Tiger Woods. ■

Pedal for Medals Cycling Event Gets Regional

From June 23-26, 2005, cyclists from Central New York and as far away as Illinois and Maryland will be pedaling 300 miles

from Saranac Lake to Dwyer Park in Cortland. All of the proceeds from the event will fund programs for our athletes in the Central Region. The cyclists have been training and raising funds for this event for several months and ride volunteers have been working out the details of the comprehensive support system put in place for cyclists. It is a lot of sacrifice and hard work, but they know it is for a great cause. Most are new to Special Olympics, but all have embraced our mission with enthusiasm. If you want to join them, you can still register to ride or volunteer. Visit the ride website at www.pedal4medals.org for more information. ■

Triumph

Vol. 9, No. 6, June 2005

Triumph is published 12 times a year by the Public Affairs Department. It salutes the athletes, volunteers, employees, Board members, local and regional programs, sponsors and donors of Special Olympics New York, Inc.

Inspire Greatness

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Silks & Satins 5K Registration Off and Running

Organizers hope for a record turnout

Runners for the 9th Annual Silks & Satins 5K Run have begun registering on-line at www.specialolympicsny.com. Once on the website click on the "Silks & Satins 5K Run" button and then click on the "Register Now" button. The registration fee is \$21.50. You can also go to the website to look at this year's 5K brochure which contains all of the race information. In addition, you can get your hands on brochures at any Capital District Price Chopper.

The 9th Annual Silks & Satins 5K Run will take place on Saturday, July 30 in Saratoga Springs. Registration begins at 6 a.m. at the corner of East Avenue and George Street and the runners will dash off the line at 8 a.m. All registered runners will receive an official 5K Run T-shirt, a timing chip to track their performance, a goody bag, water, one

Saratoga Race Course day of entry ticket, refreshments at the Price Chopper Hospitality Tent and chances to win door prizes.

"We're already seeing a lot of interest in this year's run," said Chris Porreca, Director of Development. "Although we're still more than a month away we hope to break the record for the number of runners, which was set last year at 1,146."

The Silks & Satins 5K Run is presented by Price Chopper, General Electric Capital Region Businesses and sponsored by The New York Lottery, New York State United Teachers, Merrill Lynch, Blue Shield of Northeast New York, Citizens Bank, FYE, Quad Graphics, Times Union, Fox 23 and



99.5 The River.

For more information on the Silks & Satins 5K Run, or for a full schedule of competitive events in your region, visit www.specialolympicsNY.org or call Chris Porreca at 800-836-6976. ■

Stay Safe in the Sun This Summer

Choose your cover at Summer Games

Special Olympics New York was recently awarded a \$10,000 grant from Rite Aid and the Sun Safety Alliance to promote sun protection. The program, called Sun Safety, is part of the Health Promotion initiative of the Healthy Athletes program. It aims to bring awareness to the risks of sun exposure. Through the tagline "Choose Your Cover", the program stresses seeking shade or covering up whenever possible, using

sunscreen and wearing sunglasses and a hat.

Each coach at the 2005 Summer Games will receive a Sun Sack – a knapsack filled with sunscreen, lip balm, sun safety educational materials, a UV intensity meter, a water bottle that changes color when exposed to UV rays, a hat and other goodies related to

staying safe in the sun. Giving the coaches Sun Sacks will provide them with tools to keep themselves and their athletes protected. Each region will also be receiving a Sun Safety kit, complete with banner and resources to help make regional events sun safe. A key volunteer with this project is

Beverly Berkin, who has contributed invaluable time and energy into making this a successful program. ■



Additional Volunteer Screening Measure Will Increase Safety

In an effort to further protect Special Olympics athletes, Special Olympics International has revised its policy regarding volunteer screening and will now include background checks. This policy impacts what is currently referred to as 'Type 1 Volunteers': volunteers who may have close physical contact with athletes, volunteers who are in a position of authority or supervision with athletes and volunteers who handle substantial amounts of cash or other assets of the Program. These volunteers must be screened using a national vendor that researches the sex offender registry for each State in which the sex offender registry is available electronically.

Beginning January 1, 2005, new volunteers are

subject to the new procedures and all existing volunteers will be screened over a 3-year period ending July 2008. Going forward, volunteers must be re-screened every three years.

What does this mean to Special Olympics New York? A new volunteer application will be rolled out in June. Volunteers

registered on or after January 1, 2005 will need to complete the new application and be re-screened and existing volunteers will start to be re-screened beginning in early fall

Special Olympics feels that this measure will better protect the athletes in our programs, who are considered a vulnerable

population. Most importantly, volunteers and staff want to ensure a safe environment for all Special Olympics athletes. The organization would also like to stress that all information collected will remain confidential. We understand that there will be some adjusting to this new procedure, but ultimately it will best serve the most important group we're all here for – our athletes. ■



Volunteers and family members at the 2005 Long Island Spring Games.

Canisius College Hosts Regional Competition

More than 400 competed

The Canisius College Physical Education Majors Club recently presented a check to Special Olympics New York. The money was raised by the department to sponsor an athlete to compete at the state-wide level. Accepting the check on behalf of Special Olympics New York is Laurie Kennedy, Director of Development, and with her is Dr. Jim Sylvis and Professor Ed Leak from the Physical Education Department. Canisius

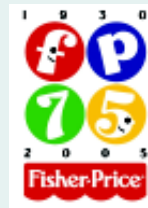
College also hosted the 4th Annual Western Regional Competition in aquatics, volleyball and basketball on Saturday, April 30th in the Koessler Center. Over 400 athletes participated in the event. ■

Canisius College Physical Education Club



Mattel and FisherPrice

Special Olympics and Mattel/Fisher-Price have joined forces to make a difference in communities



across the world. Fisher-Price, through the Mattel Children's Foundation, is helping to inspire hope and joy in people with intellectual disabilities through three highly innovative programs: a school curricula for children in grades kindergarten through fifth, known as "SO Get Into It"; a pilot project, the "YoungAthletes program," to provide children aged two through seven the opportunity to prepare to become Special Olympics athletes; and "Team Mattel," a global volunteer opportunity for employees to get involved directly with Special Olympics. Fisher-Price employees are proud to be volunteering at the Track & Field Games for Special Olympics New York, Erie County, on May 21, Metro Tournament in NYC June 4, and the Summer Games at Hofstra. Go athletes! ■

Time Trials

Hudson Valley Region "On Track"

Time Trials is an event held annually in the Hudson Valley Region for the athletes of Westchester and Putnam Counties. This is a non-competitive event that is a precursor to the Spring Games. This year it



took place on Sunday April 24. The coaches and staff approach the event as a regulated additional day of training where accurate times are recorded for heating purposes at Spring Games. The athletes have come to look at this event as not only a training session with timers and starters but as another opportunity to reunite with friends they have not seen over the winter months. Coupled with the resurgence of

long-time rivalries, the day has become a competitive environment.

Though the weather threatened to be potentially severe, the event boasted attendance of over 465 athletes. They participated in every track event from the 1500 meter run to the shot put, including 17 pentathletes. This year's event also included 29 teams who took part in the 4 X 100 relay!

Even though this was a vacation week for the schools, our dedicated, long-time core group of volunteers were able to keep the event running at its usual rapid, hectic pace. The staff of the Hudson Valley Region would like to thank all of the volunteers, coaches, athletes and the staff and students at Putnam Valley High School for making Time Trials an incredible success. ■

First Miles for Medals Walk of the Year

More than 60 walkers came out to Adirondack Community College on Saturday, May 14 to join us for the first ever Miles for Medals walk in Warren/Washington County. Athletes and teams from SONY were joined by other local walkers from the community.



Highlights from the event: Knuckles the mascot for the Adirondack Frostbite posed for pictures; TC Trucking brought their big yellow dump truck and sounded the horn when the walk started; the Queensbury High School Cheer Squad came out to give the walkers a warm up and taught everyone a few cheers.

Athlete John Woodard gave an inspirational speech for the walkers and so did local coach Margaret Martin. Local athlete Rachel Marcellus led the walk holding our torch along the campus and community. Cars passing by honked in recognition of our efforts on Bay Road and the local Queensbury law enforcement came out to help lead the parade. ■

Golf Classic and Chi Chi Return to Winged Foot

Tournament to benefit SONY athletes

The 15th Annual Golf Classic, presented by Toyota and Time Inc., will return to beautiful Winged Foot Golf Club on Monday, June 13. The Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck, NY, future home to the 2006 U.S. Open, has always provided a beautiful and challenging course. Chi Chi Rodriguez, eight-time PGA tour champion, will host a golf demonstration and fuel a day of fun for the golfers.

"This day could not happen without the numerous sponsors, volunteers and Winged Foot staff who devote invaluable resources, time and energy to this event," said Neal Johnson, President and CEO of Special Olympics New York (SONY).

Since the inaugural tournament, Chi Chi has been an important part of the event. Chi Chi is a golf legend who joined the

professional golf tour in 1960 and still has an infectious enthusiasm for the game. He grew up on the hot, dusty sugarcane plantations of Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, and his golf expertise began at the age of 12 when he shot a 67. Colorful performances still make him a gallery favorite, while his shot-making skills have earned the respect of his peers throughout his long career.



In addition to a round of golf, Golf Classic participants will enjoy breakfast,

lunch and dinner, as well as a raffle, auction and tournament prizes. There also will be an driving range and an open swimming pool. ■

TORCH RUN TIMES

Law Enforcement Torch Run News

Carquest Pitches in for LETR

🔥 About 50 Carquest employees, members of the Law Enforcement Community and volunteers in Central New York cooked up some good food and profits for the Special Olympics New York Law Enforcement Torch Run. Penny Flora, Manager of the Ithaca Carquest was pleasantly surprised at the volunteer turn out for the fundraiser. “We had so-o-o many people show up at 6:30 and 7:00 on a Sunday morning to help us”, said Flora. “. We were unloading 3 trucks with all of the stuff and the next thing I

know there was about 20 more people there. It was totally awesome!”

Since 1998, CARQUEST and its vendor partners have raised more than \$4 million dollars in support of the LETR for Special Olympics. This fundraiser pulled in \$825 for SONY athletes. “It was very rewarding and we all worked very well together,” said Flora. The Carquest crew is already planning more fundraisers for LETR, including a fishing derby and a car wash. ■



Attica Leg of the LETR kicks off Torch Run season

🔥 It was a beautiful day filled with sun shine and a lot of smiles on May 7 and it was all for the Special Olympics New York – Genesee Region Spring Games. More than 30 officers from Attica Correctional Facility, New York State Police, Wyoming County Sheriffs, Gates Police Department, Collins Correctional Facility, Livingston Correctional Facility, Wendell Correctional Facility, and Wyoming Correctional Facility took place in the torch run for the Games. The Torch Runners continued the tradition of tossing collected law enforcement t-shirts from around the country to athletes who were thrilled to receive them. ■



Front: Teresa Moore, Manager Carquest Addison
Back-left to right: Michael Novak, Carquest District Manager, Penny Flora, Manager Carquest Ithaca, Jamie Newton, Merle Sloughter, Sandy Snyder and Christopher Moore



About 50 volunteers pitched in to make the barbecue a success and they raised money for SONY athletes along the way!



The man in the yellow baseball cap is Police Chief David Buck, of the Village of Groton

Western New York Pulls in Money for SONY Athletes

1st Fire Truck Pull of the Year

🔥 Even the rain wouldn't keep Western New York's biggest bad boys (and girls) from coming out to support the LETR at the 4th annual WNY Fire Truck Pull, presented by the Twin District Volunteer Fire Dept and Western New York Law Enforcement.

13 teams competed in the pull including an all girls team, the first ever for this Fire Truck Pull. Each team got two tries to pull the fire truck but only one team could walk away victorious. The teams included Attica Correctional Facility, Auburn Correctional Facility, Collins Correctional Facility, Erie County Sheriffs, CARQUEST, New York State Police, Women Warriors, Golds Gym, Twin District Fire Department and the U-Crest Fire Department.

“It was a very competitive event,” said Jeanne Grebert, Director of Development for SONY. “These guys and girls were pulling for bragging rights, and each team wants to win.” In the end the New York State Police pulled out the victory, Gold's Gym came in second and Attica Correctional Facility in third. “It was a great time and I want to thank everyone who competed and everyone who came out to watch,” said Grebert. “This event has grown each year and at this rate there's no telling how big it will get.” ■

2005 Law Enforcement Torch Run®

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Name of Agency:		Name of Agency:	
Address:		Address:	
Phone: ()		Phone: ()	
Fax:		Fax:	
Description	Price	Size/Qty/Color	Total \$
Torch Run T-Shirt Short Sleeve	\$15.00 (S - 3X)	Small____ Med____ Large____ XL____ 2XL____ 3X____	
Torch Run T-Shirt Long Sleeve	\$20.00 (S - 3X)	Small____ Med____ Large____ XL____ 2XL____ 3X____	
Torch Run Shooter Tee	\$15.00 (S-3X)	Small____ Med____ Large____ XL____ 2XL____ 3X____	
Torch Run 100% Pique Golf Shirt	\$25.00 (S - XL) \$27.00 (2XL)	Small____ Med____ Large____ XL____ 2XL____	
Torch Run Baseball Hat	\$10.00 (S-3X)	Small____ Med____ Large____ XL____ 2XL____ 3X____	
Torch Run Hooded Sweatshirt	\$35.00 (S-3X)	Small____ Med____ Large____ XL____ 2XL____ 3X____	
Torch Run Pull Over Wind Breaker	\$30.00 (S-3X)	Small____ Med____ Large____ XL____ 2XL____ 3X____	
Torch Run Blue Wristbands "GUARDIANS OF THE FLAME"	\$5.00 each \$30 for 10	Quantity: _____	
Payment: <input type="checkbox"/> Purchase Order # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Check (enclosed) <input type="checkbox"/> Money Order (enclosed) <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Discover <input type="checkbox"/> American Express Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Verification Code _____ (The Verification Code is a 3 digit number found on the back of your card)			
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Created by the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation

Special Olympics New York, Inc. is Authorized and Accredited by Special Olympics International for the Benefit of Citizens with Intellectual Disabilities, including Mental Retardation.

*Don't forget to send your letters to the editor. Submit letters to Eric Wohlleber,
Special Olympics New York, 504 Balltown Road, Schenectady, NY 12304, or e-mail them to ewohlleber@nyso.org.*



The Empire State Building will be illuminated in gold for the Special Olympics New York Metro Tournament, June 3-5. The Empire State Building is lit for different holidays and events year-round and the lighting can be seen throughout the city. "What an honor," said Special Olympics New York President and CEO, Neal J. Johnson. "We're proud to be associated with one of the most recognizable icons of architecture around the world. This is just another example of how welcoming New York City has been to us and our 40,000 athletes." ■

Empire State Building design is a trademark of ESBC LLC

SONY's mission is to provide sports training and athletic competition to individuals with intellectual disabilities, including mental retardation. Our programs are designed to offer participants continuing opportunities to enjoy sports, develop physical fitness and demonstrate courage while interacting with their families, the community and other Special Olympics athletes.