

July/August, 2024

Madison County Special Olympics News



Madison County Special Olympics
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Madison Co. Management Team

County Coordinator

Robert (Bob) Helvering

Asst. County Coordinator

Ed Castellano

Treasurer

Karen Lumpkin

Secretary

Pamela (Kelly) Novotney

Sports Coordinator

Clay Sexton

Utility Player

Debra (Debbie) Singer

Volunteer Coordinator

Brenda Gouker

Athlete Representative

Derek Thurber

Looking Forward

Basketball and swimming will be coming up in the next couple of months, so watch for those emails..

A Tribute to Carl Erskine

We are so honored and appreciative for everything that Carl Erskine has done for our county program! We will never forget him!!

We are having a special event to honor him. So far, Ted Green, John Wilson Jr, Jeff Mohler, Gary Erskine, Little Bit County Band and many others will be reliving some memories with us all. Anderson University is a co-sponsor of this event which will also raise money for our program through a love offering. Please come celebrate the Life of Carl Erskine, a TRUE HERO to us all!!

October 17th, 7:00 p.m. at Reardon Auditorium

This is a FREE event for the entire family!!

Avery Brooks

This young man has been in powerlifting for the last 2 spring programs and has excelled in it.. He was awarded on June 25 by The Herald Bulletin with the first Jimmy Erskine Award. Powerlifting

Coach, Shane Leisure, is very proud of what Avery has accomplished in this sport ,especially at Summer Games. He won 1 Gold and 3 Silvers this past June 2024. He was also featured in his hometown newspaper of Elwood, Indiana for his achievements and awards. **Congratulations, Avery!!**



The Athlete Council **STILL NEEDS YOU!!!**

Lets welcome **Andrew Youngdale** as our new **Vice-Chair** of the Athlete Leadership Council! Stay tuned for an email on their next scheduled meeting. Athletes, you all need each other so come together and let us hear your voice.

Sports Offered



- Basketball
- Bocce
- Bowling
- Cornhole
- Distance Run & Walk
- Equestrian
- Fitness Club
- Flag Football
- Golf
- Powerlifting
- Swimming
- Track & Field

GROWING MCSO

Please help us **grow our county program!!** You can help by **verbally telling** others about MCSO, **tagging us** on fb esp. while sharing about an event you are attending with our county or state, **sharing** our newsletters, emails and social media posts to those who don't currently receive them.. We are always looking for volunteers as well.. Thank You for helping us spread the word.

NEW STATE AND COUNTY WEBSITES

Special Olympics Indiana is unveiling a new website on August 20. It will include a link to all county websites, one of which is OURS! The website for Special Olympics Indiana Madison County will have lots of new features and will include links to our Facebook page and our most recent newsletter as well as our calendar of events for the coming months. We will have more specific information in an upcoming email and in our next newsletter.

Upcoming Events

- **Madison County Monthly Meeting**— usually the first Monday of each month, unless decided otherwise, at 8:00 p.m.) These are ZOOM meetings, so if you would like to attend, please reach out to Bob or a management team member for details on joining any meeting.
- **Sunday, August 25**—Golf Sectional for unified teams, 10:00 a.m. at Moss Golf Course, Winamac, IN
- **Sunday, September 8**—State Golf Tournament at Hickory Stick Golf Club, Greenwood, IN
- **Saturday, September 14**—Cornhole Sectional at Fountain Square Church, Muncie, IN
- **September 27-28**—Equestrian State Championships at Hendricks County Fairgrounds, Danville, IN
- **Sunday, September 29**—EKS Games: Flag Football and Distance Run & Walk at Brebeuf HS, Indy
Cornhole at Grand Park Complex, Westfield, IN

Regular Practices

- **Golf**— Mondays, 5 p.m. for unified/individuals and 5:45 for skills at Grandview Golf Course
- **Equestrian**— Mondays and Thursdays with alternating groups, 6-7:30 p.m. at Moon Rise Farms in Alexandria
- **Cornhole**— Tuesdays 6-7 p.m. at Chesterfield Christian Church
- **Distance Run & Walk and Fitness Club**— Tuesdays 6-7 p.m. at Mounds State Park
- **Flag Football**— Tuesdays 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Cross Street Christian Church
- **Bowling**—Wednesdays 5:45-8:00 p.m. at Championship Lanes (singles, ramps, unified teams)
- **REGISTRATION** for athletes for the fall semester of Athlete Leadership University opens Wednesday Aug 21st. The fall session is Oct 12-13 at Butler University. Contact Bob if interested.

*Please refer to our emails for updates and important events, etc. These dates, times and info are current at the time of sending this out but they can change at any time. If they do, we will inform those involved as soon as we have that info..

HAVE A GREAT DAY!

Johnny Lievanos

in

Athlete Spotlight



How long have you been in MCSO, and what was your first sport you participated in? This was my first year, and it was Track and Field.

What is your favorite sport? Track and Field racing.

What sport would you like MCSO to have that our county doesn't currently participate in? Scooter boards in the winter.

Do you have any hobbies? I don't really have any, but I like fishing, planets and animals.

What is your favorite food/s? SUSHI

What is your favorite color? Red

Is there anything else you would like others to know about you? Johnny didn't have an answer for this question. He is a young man of few words especially about himself, so I'll give it a shot. I got to know him last spring and now ramp bowling. He signed up and came to practice with his very supportive sister and mother. He is excited about being in SO again after moving to Indiana. He participated in Georgia from around 1st grade to 7th. This past Summer Games 2024, he won 2 Golds and 1 Bronze. He has a great smile and great enthusiasm for whatever he is doing at that time..

MCSO SOCIAL GATHERING, UPDATE

We are hoping to have our next social gathering in September or October. We will be sending out details as soon as it is planned.

ARE YOU A REGISTERED VOLUNTEER?

We could always use help with each of our sports. We especially need help with TRACK and FIELD. You would have such a great time and be able to attend Summer Games for the weekend at no cost to you. AWESOME!!

Parents/guardians/staff-you are able to help your athlete as well, all you have to do is register to become a volunteer. Our goal is to NEVER turn away an athlete due to lack of support but it does happen due to lack of volunteers.

HUGE SHOUTOUT TO OUR AREA AWARD WINNERS

Doug Holder has been awarded Coach of the Year and **Derek Thurber** is the Athlete of the Year, both for Area 6. They will be considered for the state award which will be given at the Awards Luncheon at the State Conference on October 26th at Embassy Suites in Noblesville. Watch for details on how to attend in an email coming soon. Goodluck to you both!!

ERSKINE CHAMPIONSHIP WEEKEND

(Taken from SOI newsletter) In honor of **Carl and Jimmy Erskine**, the weekend of Sept 7-8th, when state golf and softball tournaments take place, is now named **Erskine Championship Weekend!!** This unique honor will be continued from now on. EKS Games will now be EKS Weekend, only for Cornhole, Distance Run & Walk, and Flag Football.

Athlete Leadership University

Would you like to learn about becoming an athlete leader? Athlete Leadership University exists to enhance the lives of athletes with ongoing leadership training and experience on the area such as communications, events, governance, health and fitness, sports, technology, and visual arts; it brings together talented athletes in an atmosphere of sharing, knowledge, trust, and respect. The next semester of ALU is October 12-13 at Butler University in Indianapolis. There is no charge for you to attend, but you will need a volunteer to go as your mentor. If you are an athlete or volunteer who is interested or want more information, please email Bob at specialolympics@anderson.edu.

PHOTO GALLERY

