

**Special Olympics Iowa
Program Report
February 15, 2016**

**2015 Year-End Program Numbers Comparison
2014-2015**

Traditional Sports	2014	2015	Healthy Athletes	2014	2015
Athletes and Unified Sports Partners	12,613	13,415	Healthy Athlete Disciplines		
Female Athletes Percentage	39.00%	43.06%	Fit Feet	Yes	Yes
Male Athletes Percentage	61.00%	56.94%	FUN Fitness	Yes	Yes
Athletes Ages 21 and Older	57.00%	57.00%	Health Promotion (two in 2015)	Yes	Yes
Athletes Ages 20 and Under*	43.00%	43.00%	Healthy Hearing	Yes	Yes
Unified Sports	2014	2015	Med Fest	Yes	No
Unified Sports Athletes	983	986	Opening Eyes	Yes	Yes
Unified Sports Partners	961	970	Special Smiles	Yes	Yes
Unified Sports Events	17	21	Healthy Athletes Screenings	1,156	1,188
Playdays and Special Programs	2014	2015	Healthy Athletes Volunteers	70	74
Young Athletes Play Days	977	1,202	Doctors and Medical Professionals	202	188
Challenge Day Athletes	361	356	FIT Assessments		38
Area Competitions	68	69	Volunteers	2014	2015
Statewide Championships	8	8	Estimated Total Number of Volunteers	15,000	15,900
Global Messengers	52	64	Certified Coaches (estimated in 2014)	1,300	1,388
Sports Offered	23	23	Estimated Law Enforcement Volunteers	300	1,100
* Athlete Ages 20 and Under with Young Athlete Play Days = 52%			Area Directors and Assistants	15	15
			Event Volunteers	13,042	13,085

**Winter Games Numbers Comparison
2014 – 2016**

Winter Games Event	2014	2015	2016
Alpine Skiing	79	60	62
Cross Country Skiing	75	65	69
Snowshoeing	140	157	127
Speed Skating	28	29	26
Figure Skating	4	3	3
Total Athletes	326	314	287

Global Messenger Workshop

The Global Messenger Workshop is a two-day event, held this year on December 4th and 5th, where athletes learn to write speeches and learn techniques on delivering a speech. Each athlete has a speech coach and, together, work to organize the athlete's thoughts and experiences about Special Olympics, as well as their own personal stories. Athletes in the Global Messenger program gain self-confidence and self-esteem as well as valuable skills for day-to-day activities in their communities. 10 new Global Messengers and nine Senior Global Messengers, who served as mentors, participated this year, along with coaches, parents and volunteers. Our 2015 workshop was our largest ever.

Upcoming Events

Unified Sports Day	February 13, 2016	Wartburg College
Des Moines Challenge Day	February 27, 2016	Ruby Van Meter School
Spread the Word to End the Word	March 1, 2016	Capitol Building
Mid-Winter Tournament	March 11 and 12, 2016	Iowa City/Coralville
Unified Sports Day	March 19, 2016	Avoca High School
Cedar Falls Challenge Day	April 2, 2016	River Hills School
Ankeny Play Day	April 21, 2016	Ankeny Centennial H.S.
River Hills Play Day	April 29, 2016	River Hills School
Summer Games	May 21 – 23, 2015	Iowa State University

Mid-Winter Tournament and Summer Games Volunteer Opportunities

Registration for volunteers for the Mid-Winter Tournament is now open. Board members wishing to volunteer can contact Jordan Allen at jallen@soiowa.org or 515-986-5520 ext. 119 for more details.

Volunteer registration for Summer Games will open on March 1st. Save the date cards/e-mails will be sent to all individuals who volunteered in recent years. Board members wishing to volunteer can contact Jordan Allen at jallen@soiowa.org or 515-986-5520 ext. 119 for more details.

Area and Conference Competitions

Area Basketball Skills competitions took place in all 11 areas throughout January and February. Athletes earning a blue ribbon (1st Place) in their division at their area basketball skills competition qualify to advance to the Basketball Skills competition at the Mid-Winter Tournament. Over 1,000 athletes have competed in the Area Basketball Skills competitions in 2016.

Three of the four full-court and half-court Conference Basketball Tournaments have been completed. The remaining tournament is scheduled for February 20th in Cedar Rapids. Conference Tournament 1st place finishers advance to the Mid-Winter Tournament state competition.

Area Aquatics and Spring Games competitions are starting soon and will continue through mid-April. Blue ribbon winners earn the opportunity to advance to competition in that event at Summer Games.