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Contact: SOPA: Michelle Cordell, Sports Director
215-671-5021 | mcordell@specialolympicspa.org

39 PHILADELPHIA SPECIAL OLYMPICS ATHLETES HEAD TO VILLANOVA FOR 27TH ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL, NOV. 6TH – 8TH

(Philadelphia, PA, November 2, 2015) – Special Olympics Pennsylvania’s (SOPA) Fall Festival will return to Villanova University for the 27th consecutive year from November 6-8, 2015. In celebration of Fall Festival’s 27th anniversary, Villanova’s campus, located at 800 E. Lancaster Avenue, will be transformed to an Underwater theme and features Opening Ceremonies with live entertainment, Healthy Athletes® programs, an “Olympic Town” festival offering athlete activities between sporting events, a Victory Dance and Closing Ceremonies.

On Friday, November 6th, 39 Philadelphia Special Olympics athletes will head to Villanova for preliminary competition in bocce and soccer, beginning at 1:00pm. That evening, athletes from across Pennsylvania will head to The Pavilion for Opening Ceremonies, which officially kicks off the weekend festivities. The anticipated Opening will feature the lighting of the Olympic Torch to signify the official start of the games.

Philadelphia’s 39 athletes consist of 8 traditional bocce team athletes, 4 unified bocce team (2 partners and 2 athletes), a 7-a-side soccer team consisting of 11 athletes, a 5-a-side soccer team consisting of 10 athletes, 4 individual soccer skills athletes, and 2 individual volleyball skills athletes, and 11 coaches to Fall Fest.

We encourage our fans to come out and visit any of the competition venues on or near campus to cheer on the athletes! For more information, visit the official Villanova University Fall Festival Web site at specialolympics.villanova.edu.

About Special Olympics Pennsylvania

Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) provides year-round training and competition in 22 Olympic-type sports to more than 20,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities or closely related developmental disabilities. For more information, visit our Web site at www.specialolympicspa.org.

About Villanova University

Since 1842, Villanova University’s Augustinian Catholic intellectual tradition has been the cornerstone of an academic community in which students learn to think critically, act compassionately and succeed while serving others. There are more than 10,000 undergraduate, graduate and law students in the University’s five colleges – the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Villanova School of Business, the College of Engineering, the College of Nursing and the Villanova University School of Law. As students grow intellectually, Villanova prepares them to become ethical leaders who create positive change everywhere life takes them. [Click here](#) for more information on Villanova University.

(more)

Special Olympics Pennsylvania – Philadelphia

2900 Southampton Road, Philadelphia, PA 19154 Tel 215.671.5069 Fax 215.671.5033

Email philly@specialolympicspa.org www.SOPAPhilly.org Facebook.com/SOPAPhiladelphia twitter: @SOPAPhilly

Created by Joseph P Kennedy Jr. Foundation. Authorized and accredited by Special Olympics, Inc. for the benefit of persons with intellectual disabilities.



About Unified Sports

Unified Sports® combines approximately equal numbers of Special Olympics Athletes and athletes without intellectual disabilities (called Partners) on sports teams for training and competition. Age and ability matching of athletes and partners is defined on a sport-by-sport basis. The concept of combining athletes with intellectual disabilities and those without was first introduced in the mid-1980s to provide another level of challenge for higher ability athletes and to promote equality and inclusion.

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