

# A Winning Team

Moose is pleased to be the primary supporter of Special Olympics softball. In 2009, the Moose made possible the first Special Olympics National Invitational Softball Tournament, which was held in Lincoln, Nebraska as a test event for the 2010

Special Olympics USA National Summer Games. The Moose then sponsored the softball venue at the 2010 National Games, as well as the Founder's Reception. In 2011, the Moose hosted the first Special Olympics North America Softball Invitational Tournament in Elgin, Illinois, which included opening ceremonies on the Mooseheart campus. This new tradition continued in 2012 at the ASA Hall of Fame Complex in Oklahoma City.

In addition to making the Special Olympics North America Softball Invitational Tournament possible, Moose will also pursue the opportunity to sponsor the softball venue at the 2014 Special Olympics USA Games. Sponsorship would include having the Moose name and logo included on advertisements, promotions, publications and media releases; and signage at the designated sports venue.

In addition to the benefits that will be enjoyed by Special Olympics North America, ASA and our fraternity, there will be benefits to state and provincial Special Olympics programs based on the involvement of our Moose Associations, for which they will be recognized.

**Here's how it works:** We ask each fraternal unit (Lodges, Chapters and Moose Legions) to contribute \$100 during the fiscal year to our efforts. Councils of Higher Degrees, Districts and Associations are also encouraged to participate. Funds should be remitted to Moose Charities and earmarked "Special Olympics". Those resources will be used to fund the annual Special Olympics North America Softball Invitational Tournament (or Special Olympics USA Games sponsorship in appropriate years). All remaining monies will be dispersed to the State/Provincial Special Olympics offices based on contributions received on behalf of that State/Provincial Moose Association.

The Moose International Activities Department will issue recognition awards to units contributing to Special Olympics through Moose Charities at levels of \$500, \$1,000 and greater.



**Special  
Olympics**

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**"Let me win.  
But if I cannot win,  
let me be brave  
in the attempt."**

*Special Olympics Athlete Oath*

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## MOOSE

Moose; an international organization of men and women dedicated to caring for children in need, looking out for senior members, bringing communities closer together and celebrating life. For more than 120 years, the Moose has shown that a fraternal organization can successfully provide for those entrusted to our care, while also supporting the local municipalities that we are privileged to serve.

Our Lodges and Chapters contribute \$75-\$100 million dollars in community service annually, including monetary donations, volunteer hours worked and miles driven. Our efforts can be seen at the local, state and provincial, national and international levels.

One organization benefiting from the generosity of our fraternal units is Special Olympics. Whether financial support of Special Olympics programs or volunteer assistance at local and state/provincial games and tournaments, the men and women of the Moose have found themselves actively involved in these endeavors.

Because our members have indicated to us the importance of Special Olympics, we have formed a partnership with Special Olympics North America. We feel that our commitment will serve to strengthen the entire program across the continent, and will provide an outstanding opportunity for people everywhere to realize the good works provided by the men and women of our fraternity.

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Since the first World Games were held in Chicago, IL in 1968, Special Olympics has provided year-round training and athletic competition in Olympic-style sports for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Since then, more than 4 million Special Olympics athletes in 170 countries around the world have been empowered to become physically fit, productive and respected members of society.

Children and adults with intellectual disabilities who participate in Special Olympics develop improved physical fitness and motor skills, greater self-confidence and a more positive self-image. They grow mentally, emotionally and socially, and--through sports--exhibit boundless courage and enthusiasm while enjoying the rewards of friendship and competition.

Today, Special Olympics North America supports more than 500,000 athletes throughout the United States, Canada and the Caribbean who participate in 32 sports offered by Special Olympics. Softball, which has seen a dramatic increase in participation, has been celebrated in Special Olympics North America since 1983.

Every four years, athletes have the opportunity to compete in the Special Olympics USA National Summer Games. The inaugural USA National Summer Games were held in Ames, Iowa in 2006. The 2010 Games took place in Lincoln, Nebraska and was the largest sporting event in the history of the state. Thousands of coaches, volunteers, family members and friends were in attendance, in addition to approximately 3,000 athletes. Competition took place in 13 sports including softball, which was one of the most popular venues. The 2014 Special Olympics USA Games will be held June 14-21 in the Mercer County area of New Jersey.

## AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

The sport of softball also got its start in Chicago, with the invention of the game in November 1887 by George Hancock. More than a century later, the game that started as "indoor baseball" has become a well-recognized and respected game played all over the world.

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) was founded in 1933 and has evolved into the strongest softball organization in the country. The ASA has many important responsibilities as the national governing body of softball in the United States, including regulating competition to insure fairness and equal opportunity to the millions of players who annually play the sport.

When the ASA entered the softball picture in 1933, the sport was in a state of confusion with no unified set of playing rules and no national governing body to provide guidance and stability. The ASA changed all that by adopting softball's first universally accepted rules of play and by organizing consistent and fair competition across the nation.

From this beginning, the ASA has become one of the nation's largest and fastest growing sports organizations and now sanctions competition in every state through a network of 76 local associations. The ASA has grown from a few hundred teams in the early days to over 250,000 teams today, representing a membership of more than four million.



**Special  
Olympics**

