



**Special  
Olympics**  
New York

Message from Special Olympics New York  
Western Regional Update



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#### 2017 Buffalo Snow Bowl

Register for the first annual Buffalo Snow Bowl, a 6-on-6 flag football tournament to benefit Special Olympics NY! The event will be held at New Era Field on Saturday, March 11. Sign up your team of up to 10 players (age 18 and up) and play on the field that the greats did!

This is an official 6-on-6 flag football tournament with light blocking. The four divisions are:

- Pro League**
- Rookie League**
- Co-Ed League**
- Corporate/Bar League**

Team captains are required to put down a \$50 deposit to reserve a spot. Teams must raise a minimum of \$1,000 to participate.

Click [here](#) for more information or contact Erica Raepple from Special Olympics at [eraepple@nyso.org](mailto:eraepple@nyso.org).

#### Buffalo Snow Bowl - Athletes Arena

Special Olympics athletes are invited to attend the Buffalo Snow Bowl on March 11 to be a part of the Athlete Arena. Come hang out, sign autographs, and maybe even play in a pickup game! Sign up [here](#).

**SPREAD THE WORD  
TO END THE WORD**

**03.01.17**

It is time we Spread The Word To End The Word and build awareness for society to stop and think about its' use of the R-word. Use of that R-word, "retard" or "retarded," is hurtful and painful and whether intended or not, is a form of bullying. Most people don't think of this word as hate speech, but that's exactly what it feels like to millions of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families and friends. The R-word is just as cruel and offensive as any other slur. Visit [www.r-word.org](http://www.r-word.org) to make your pledge today. Eliminating the use of this word is a step toward respect.



### **2017 Winter State Games**

This past weekend, Poughkeepsie served as the host for the 2017 Winter State Games. Athletes from across New York came together to compete in alpine skiing, cross country skiing, figure skating, floor hockey, and snowshoeing. The Western Region contingent included the Buffalo Storm, Chautauqua Lakers, Dunkirk Lakers, and Niagara-Orleans training clubs. Congratulations to all of the competitors on a job well done!

### **Upcoming Coaches Trainings**

On Saturday, Feb. 25, the Western Region will offer a track and field coaches training from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm at the Alexander Community Center in Cheektowaga. Any volunteer looking to become a certified coach in this sport should attend. Click [here](#) to register!

On Tuesday, Mar. 28, an aquatics coaches training will be offered at Clarence Middle School from 6:00 - 8:30 pm. All coaches who work with aquatics athletes are required to have this training. Click [here](#) to sign up!

### **Reminders and Updates**

[Track and Field Coaches Training - Feb. 25](#)

[Western Local Basketball - Registrations due Mar. 10](#)

[Super Regional Basketball - Registrations due Mar. 17](#)

[Aquatics Coaches Training - Mar. 28](#)

"I've volunteered with Special Olympics NY in high school in the Syracuse area and in college at Niagara University. Working with the athletes has been on of the best experiences of my life!"

Morgan B., Niagara University graduate student

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