



**Special
Olympics
Washington**



YMCA of the Inland Northwest and Special Olympics Washington Team Up to Give Special Olympics Athletes and Their Families Opportunities to Learn, Grow and Thrive At the YMCA

Partnership Offers Discounts on Join Fees and Membership Dues at Spokane Area Branches

SEATTLE and SPOKANE – November 14, 2022 – The YMCA of the Inland Northwest (ymcainw.org) and Special Olympics Washington (SpecialOlympicsWashington.org) announced today a partnership that will enable Special Olympics Washington athletes and their families to join the YMCA at a substantial discount. The collaboration reflects the organizations' shared vision of improving the health and well-being of their communities in a welcoming and inclusive environment.

Through the partnership, Special Olympics Washington athletes and their families will receive a 50% discount on join fees, 50% discounted monthly membership dues and discounts on fee-based Y programs.

In addition, to help YMCA staff work better with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), Special Olympics Washington trained YMCA personnel on inclusive fitness, equipping them with valuable resources and best practices.

“The YMCA is committed to serving diverse groups of people in our community by removing barriers and creating welcoming spaces. Through this partnership with Special Olympics Washington, we are reducing financial barriers and also educating our staff on how to best support wellness for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities,” said Christine Brischle, Group Vice President of Membership/Operations for YMCA of the Inland Northwest. “Historically, people with IDD and their families experience isolation and inadequate health services. We intend to change that.”

“We care deeply for the health of our athletes and want to provide as many pathways as possible to reduce the health inequities that many individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities face,” said David Wu, CEO and President of Special Olympics Washington. “We’re excited for our partnership with the YMCA of the Inland Northwest which will provide our athletes and their families with access to fantastic facilities. This will go far in making a lifelong impact on their health and help them meet their fitness goals.”

To sign up, athletes and their families can visit any of the four YMCA of the Inland Northwest Spokane locations in person and present a copy of their current Athlete Registration Form as proof of eligibility.

To learn more, please visit <https://ymcainw.org/support-the-y/partners/>.

About The YMCA of the Inland Northwest

The YMCA of the Inland Northwest is dedicated to our cause of strengthening the foundations of community through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. Regardless of age, income, or background – we nurture the potential of children and teens, improve the nation’s health and well-being, and provide opportunities to give back and support our neighbors. Anchored in Spokane and surrounding community for over 135 years, the YMCA has the long-standing relationships and physical presence not just to promise, but to deliver, lasting personal and social change. Visit our website: ymcainw.org/.

About Special Olympics Washington

Special Olympics Washington provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports, inclusive health programs, and community building for more than 7,500 children and adults with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community. Learn more at SpecialOlympicsWashington.org.

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