



**Special Olympics Washington Returns to Wenatchee for the 2023 State Winter Games**

*After a Two-Year Pause, 1,400 Athletes, Unified Partners and Coaches Will Compete March 3-5*

**SEATTLE and WENATCHEE – March 1, 2023** – On Friday, March 3, Special Olympics Washington’s [State Winter Games](#) return to Wenatchee! Athletes, Unified partners, and coaches from across the state will gather in venues throughout the area to compete in alpine skiing, basketball, cheerleading, cross country skiing, figure skating, snowshoeing, snowboarding and speed skating. Supporting them will be nearly 2,000 volunteers.

The three-day event begins on Friday afternoon with preliminary rounds for alpine skiing, cross country skiing, snowboarding and snowshoeing. The organization will also be hosting its [Wenatchee Polar Plunge](#) at Walla Walla State Park starting at 1:00 p.m.

Capping off opening day will be the Law Enforcement Torch Run followed by the Opening Ceremony at Toyota Town Center. The Opening Ceremony and competitions are free to attend, and the community is invited to cheer on the athletes.

<p><b>Friday, March 3</b> 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Preliminary rounds for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross country skiing and snowshoeing (Leavenworth Fish Hatchery)</li> <li>• Alpine skiing and snowboarding (Mission Ridge)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Friday, March 3</b> 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Wenatchee Polar Plunge at Walla Walla State Park. Onsite registration opens at 1:00 p.m. The plunge starts at 3:00 p.m.</p>
<p><b>Friday, March 3</b> 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Opening Ceremony at Town Toyota Center</p>
<p><b>Saturday, March 4</b> 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Competitions and award ceremonies for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alpine skiing and snowboarding (Mission Ridge)</li> <li>• Basketball (Various Eastmont and Wenatchee Schools)</li> <li>• Cheerleading (Wenatchee High School – Small Gym)</li> <li>• Cross country skiing and snowshoeing (Leavenworth Fish Hatchery)</li> <li>• Figure skating and speed skating (Town Toyota Center)</li> </ul>

<p><b>Sunday, March 5</b> 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Competitions and award ceremonies for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alpine skiing and snowboarding (Mission Ridge)</li> <li>• Basketball (Various Eastmont and Wenatchee Schools)</li> <li>• Cross country skiing and snowshoeing (Leavenworth Fish Hatchery)</li> </ul>
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A dinner, dance, and entertainment activities for the participants will be held on Saturday evening.

In addition, to ensure that athletes are performing at their best on and off the playing fields, on Saturday, March 4, from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., Special Olympics Washington will be offering health examinations for all athletes through its Healthy Athletes program. From physical therapy guidance to podiatric screenings, all Healthy Athletes screenings are free to athletes.

Please check the Special Olympics Washington website for more information including specific competition schedules, maps and venue information:

[SpecialOlympicsWashington.org/event/state-winter-games/](http://SpecialOlympicsWashington.org/event/state-winter-games/).

### About Special Olympics Washington

Special Olympics Washington provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for more than 7,400 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. For more information, please visit [SpecialOlympicsWashington.org](http://SpecialOlympicsWashington.org).

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