

Progress Monitoring Probe 20

Special Olympics

Forty years ago, Eunice Shriver started a sports camp. It was for children with disabilities. She held the day camp at her home.	11
For the next five years, she helped start similar camps all around the country. A few years later, she started Special Olympics, a program of year-round sports training and athletic contests for people with disabilities.	23
Today, Special Olympics serves about one million people. There are branches in hundreds of countries. The program helps both children and adults improve their physical fitness. It also helps them build self-confidence and it is just plain fun. Once you see the joy of participating on a young athlete's face, you are likely to be hooked.	35
The Special Olympics offers sports for each season. During fall, athletes practice long-distance running and walking. They also bowl and play volleyball. In winter, they practice skiing and ice skating. Spring sports include soccer, diving, swimming, and cycling. In summer, athletes play tennis, softball, and golf. Athletes never pay fees to compete in or practice sports. Coaches and helpers give their time freely. Family members and friends of athletes also help out in many ways. Money is raised by community groups. The money is used to sponsor events, buy medals, pay for sports gear, and so forth.	46
Every two years, Special Olympics holds World Games. Leading athletes from many countries compete in different sports. The next Winter games will be held in Japan. There, athletes will compete in downhill and cross-country skiing. Other competitions will include figure skating and speed skating. China will host the next Summer games. Athletes will	56
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Special Olympics (Continued)

compete in swimming, diving, and gymnastics. Track and field events are also popular at the Summer games.	277
In communities around the world, Special Olympics makes a difference in people's lives. The purpose behind Special Olympics might best be summed up by its oath: "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."	285
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Total words: _____ — errors: _____ = words correct: _____

Notes:

Special Olympics

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