

# *Kiwanis Special Games*

## **How the Games Work**

Presented by the Kiwanis Club Division 1234 Special Games

**THE CORE PRINCIPLE.** We are told repeatedly that the Special Games is the most important day in the lives of these determined athletes. The reason is that this is the one day when they are validated, rather than excused, for their physical capabilities. It is essential that the conduct of the Games be formal and official, and above all competitive. The value is not just going through the motions of the Event, the value is in trying your hardest, and **WINNING** that ribbon as a recognition of your determination and success in a demanding physical endeavor.

**THE ATHLETES -- GROUPS.** About 900 athletes, K-12, from about 60 schools are divided in 150 Groups of ideally 6 each. The athletes in a Group are of similar age, mobility, and athletic ability. The Group stays together the whole day, and athletes compete only within their group. To ensure fair competition, contests with athletes from other groups should **NEVER** be permitted.

**THE PROCESS -- EVENTS.** Groups spend two hours competing in as many of the 18 athletic Events, appropriate to their abilities, as time and energy permit. All Groups and Events are led and managed by Kiwanis volunteers.

**THE EVENTS.** There are 18 Events laid out on the college playing fields, covering a wide range of skill level.

**COMPETITION.** The Athletes love that the Games are competitive. Fair competition can only be ensured if competing athletes are of similar ability. ***Never mix athletes from 2 Groups in a single Contest.*** Whether you are assigned to work with a Group or an Event, the big challenge, and the big payoff, is a smooth flow of athletes through the Event.

**THE CORRAL.** Every Event has a dedicated staging area, the **CORRAL**, where Event and Group leaders work together to organize the flow of athletes through the Event.

**MORE!** Lots of information on the download page of the SG website.

***[www.kiwanisspecialgames.org](http://www.kiwanisspecialgames.org)***