# Kiwanis Special Games Student Club Info

Key Club, Builders & Circle K

#### Thank you for participating in the Kiwanis Special Games!

**THIS PACKET**. This packet contains everything you need to make the Kiwanis Special Games an especially memorable occasion for the club. Please download a fresh copy just before Game Day, as several of the documents are frequently updated, especially the Track Map.

**TIME & PLACE**. The event date is listed on the Kiwanis Special Games website: www.kiwanisspecialgames.org. We look forward to seeing your club on the day of the games at 8:15 AM sharp at West Valley College stadium. The Games will wind up about 1:00.

**SIGN UP**. Please email The Kiwanis Special Games club at: <a href="mailto:infokiwanisspecialgames@gmail.com">infokiwanisspecialgames@gmail.com</a> with your club name, contact information, and approximate number of club members you expect to be volunteering at the Games.

**WEBSITE**. <u>www.kiwanisspecialgames.org</u> All these documents and much more, including several very cool videos.

**FACEBOOK**. Encourage all club members to "Like" the Special Games Facebook page to stay up to date and receive all SG notifications. (www.facebook.com/KiwanisSpecialGames)

**THE TASK**. When you sign in at the volunteer registration table, and pick up your official Special Games T-shirt (if you already have one, PLEASE WEAR IT!), you will be assigned a task. There are many, but the most numerous are helping one of the 150 groups of athletes as they move from event to event, or helping to run one of the 18 events.

**BEFORE THE GAMES**. Recruit the team that will represent your club. The Games are labor-intensive, and we can use all the help we can get. Bring all the members you can. Every volunteer should read through this entire packet shortly before The Games.

**T-SHIRT**. If you or your members worked the Games before, please locate and wear your vellow T-shirts.

**COMFORT**. Hat, sunblock, shades ... .

**GAME DAY -- 8:15 AM Sharp**, at West Valley. Allow 15 minutes for parking (Lot "5"). All volunteers must sign in at the Volunteer Registration Table, located at the main gates, and (if needed) pick up their yellow T-shirt, and be assigned a task. You'll be done by about 1:00 PM.

**PIZZA!** After the Games, for all student volunteers, compliments of the Kiwanis Club of Division1234 Special Games.



March 15, 2023

Dear School Administrator,

I am writing to request absence authorization for all Kiwanis student volunteers (Key Clubs, Circle K) able to attend the 43rd annual Kiwanis Special Games, to be held Friday, May 19, 2023, at West Valley College in Saratoga.

Every year the Kiwanis Clubs of our region sponsor and produce the Kiwanis Special Games. They were created to address the physical and emotional needs of the substantial number of very challenged children in the schools of our region. More broadly known programs, like the Special Olympics, presume a rather high level of function. The Special Games exclude no one.

In our last games, 970 athletes from 60 different schools enjoyed a day of victory, self-achievement, and positive attention. The force that spearheaded this uplifting event was the 290 Kiwanis student volunteers who came early, stayed late, and made it happen. Without their bright, capable, compassionate, generous, creative energy at its core, there would be no Special Games.

For our student volunteers, it is impossible to imagine a more powerful community service project than attendance at this event. One cannot be a part of the Games without being moved. And there are not words to describe the joy that it brings the hearts of the more than 900 athletes for whom this is the best day of the year.

I'm taking the liberty of attaching a letter written by a Key Club student volunteer, describing the impact of the Games on her.

It's also worth noting that discovering how positive the experience of working with severely handicapped children can be is not lost on the student volunteers, opening their eyes to a whole new field of career choices that might otherwise have been dismissed.

Thank you for your consideration,

Nancy C. Learson

Nancy Pearson Kiwanis Special Games President, 2022-2023 www.kiwanisspecialgames.org 408.313.7060

#### I Had No Idea...

This is the piece that Key Clubber Hannah Lee wrote about her experience at the special Games in 2004.

#### I Had No Idea...

We arrived at De Anza, at their football field, 7:30 in the morning. It was pretty cold and we were hopping around waiting for the volunteer to give us our bright yellow shirts that read "Kiwanis Special Games." We were given instructions to sit on the bleachers and wait for the participants to arrive. I asked, "What are we supposed to do once they get here?" 'Lead your group and keep track of them' was the answer. My friend, Blaine Kim and I looked at each other and shrugged, 'looks like we won't be doing much' I thought to myself. I had no idea.

They had underestimated our role. I also thought that our job stopped after 'leading and keeping track.' We were given a roster of names, and our group was the largest, 23 kids. When the kids arrived and moved towards their group, we began taking role. That in itself was harder than I thought. You couldn't simply call out names and hope for a 'present' or 'here!.' So Blaine and I went to each individual kid in the area and asked them what their name was. Some responded, but most did not. I relied on the parents and guardians for help. From that moment, you could see the personality of each participant. One just stared right into my eyes. Another gave me a hug and told me how excited she was. One child asked me how many 1<sup>st</sup> place ribbons I had because according to him, he would win them all, since he had come 'To win a lot! But I want to have fun, that's the most important right?' he said.

After that, we proceeded to the first game. Organizing them was one of the hardest things I have ever done. It was confusing enough to get them into rows and sections, and then different heats,

and also keeping them in the right places. Then we had to worry about exactly who threw the farthest, who threw the 2<sup>nd</sup> farthest... and the 3<sup>rd</sup>... in each section of each heat. This was hard because we hadn't memorized the names of the kids yet. But their intense enthusiasm and cheers for each other when receiving their prizes made me want to try harder. The next event was little easier to control, and the next was even easier. Blaine and I found that by the 2<sup>nd</sup> event, we knew everyone's name by heart. Although learning names usually takes me a while, it was so easy to match their names with their personalities and their grins.

We had to take role every couple of minutes, just in case a child tried to run away. We knew one; his name was Eric, who continuously ran away. We learned to show him that we cared about him and wanted to talk to him, so he would stay. Another, whom I will never forget, was a girl named Kristie. After each event, regardless of the turnout, she hugged me and Blaine. She even gave me a kiss! After the event, she pronounced that it was the 'funnest ever.'

I learned so much that day. I learned what appreciation is really about. The things we take for granted like walking, looking straight, making a decision of whether to drive or walk, and breathing on our own to others they are constant battles. I also learned another thing. In a way, I felt more incapable that anyone else there that day. I could never find the joy that Kristie found after throwing 3 softballs. I never clapped as hard as she did or smiled as big for her fellow friends, when they crossed the finish line at the zig-zag race. And she could never learn as much from me as I did from her in 2 hours. I thank Kristie, because really, I HAD NO IDEA.

Author Hannah Lee

## Kiwanis Special Games **EMERGENCY!**

Presented by the Kiwanis Club of Division 1234 Special Games

**WANDERERS** -- Unaccompanied athletes are never OK. Keep alert for wanderers, especially if you are working an event near the perimeter. Intercept, and call Athlete Services. All athletes have sticky labels on their shirts identifying their group and school. Athlete Services and Volunteer Registration have an index of who should be where. Athletes can always be brought to the Medical Center or Athlete Services for help resolving problems.

#### **INJURY?** -- Go to the Medical Station

**LOST AN ATHLETE?** – Go To Announcer Stand

FOUND AN ATHLETE? -- Go To Announcer Stand

NEED TO LOCATE AN ATHLETE? -- Go To Announcer Stand

#### **ANY OTHER EMERGENCY** – Dial 9-1-1

**RAIN!** -- Head for the sheltered walkways surrounding the athletic buildings!

If it starts raining listen for announcements. If it's raining really hard, and there's nothing coming out of the PA system, it's probably shorted out. Use common sense. When it's time to go, it will be obvious. Carefully, but as rapidly as possible, get yourself, and all those in your charge to the sheltered walkways surrounding the athletic buildings. Depending on circumstances, we may wait it out, or we may decide to recall the buses. But we will be out of the driving rain.

Take responsibility for the care and comfort of those around you.

# Kiwanis Special Games ~~ Program ~~

Presented by the Kiwanis Club of Division 1234 Special Games

8:00 -- Volunteer Registration & Pick up materials, set up Events

9:00 -- Group Leader Training

#### **Opening Ceremony**

9:15 -- Call to Order

9:20 -- Parade of Schools - Official Parade Starter
Torch Bearer -- Special Games Athlete
Flag Bearer -- Special Games Athlete
The Special Games Banner -- Special Games Athletes
Kiwanis Banner -- Special Games Athletes

#### 10:00

Welcome Athletes
Welcome to the whole Kiwanis Community
Gov. CalNevHa District, Kiwanis International or Designee
Welcome Volunteers - Lt. Gov. Div. 12 & Lt. Gov. Div. 34
Pledge of Allegiance
National Anthem
Special Games Oath -- Special Games Athlete
Games Declared Open

#### The Games

10:15 Athletes Assemble in Groups

10:30 Games Begin

12:00 Games End

12:30 Clean Up/Truck Load

#### Closing

12:00 Closing Remarks

12:35 Lunch with School Groups

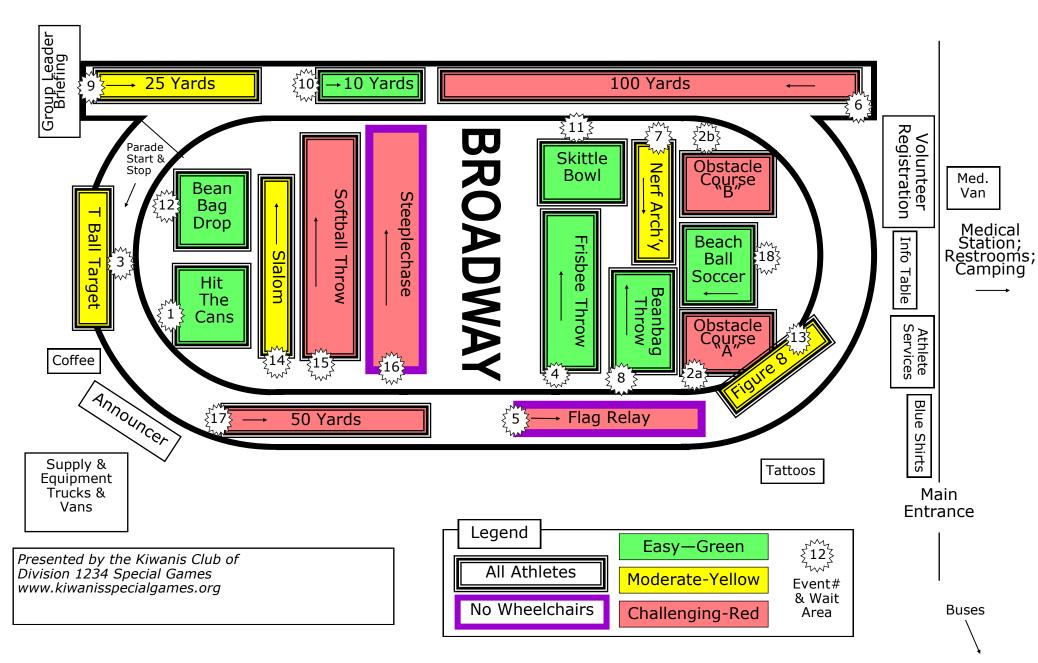
2:00 Campground Closes

#### Kiwanis Special Games — West Valley

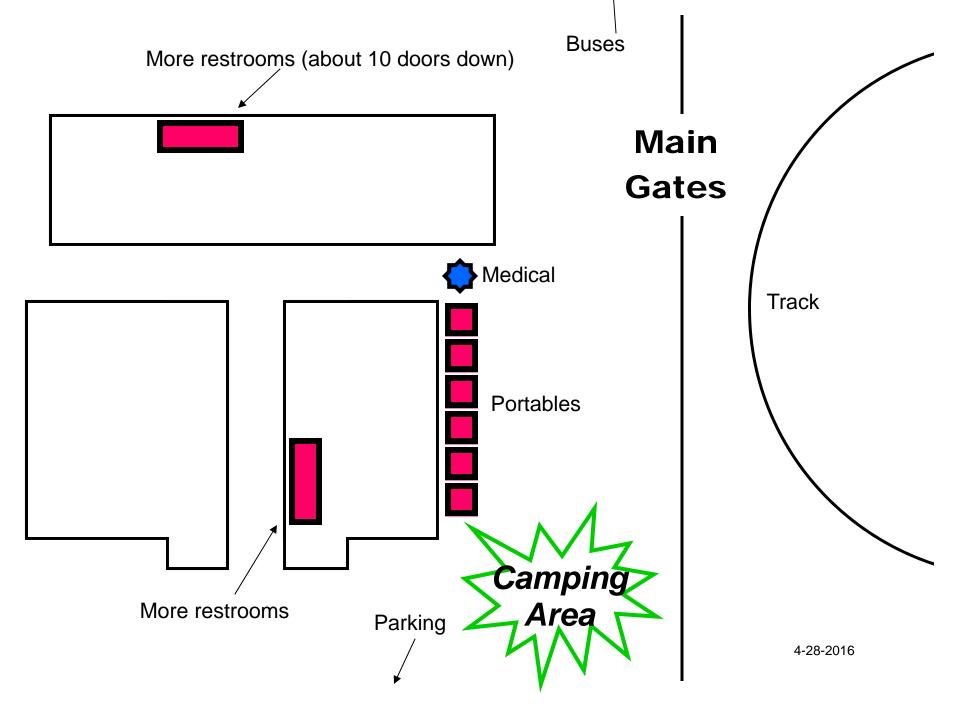
# The TRACK MAP!

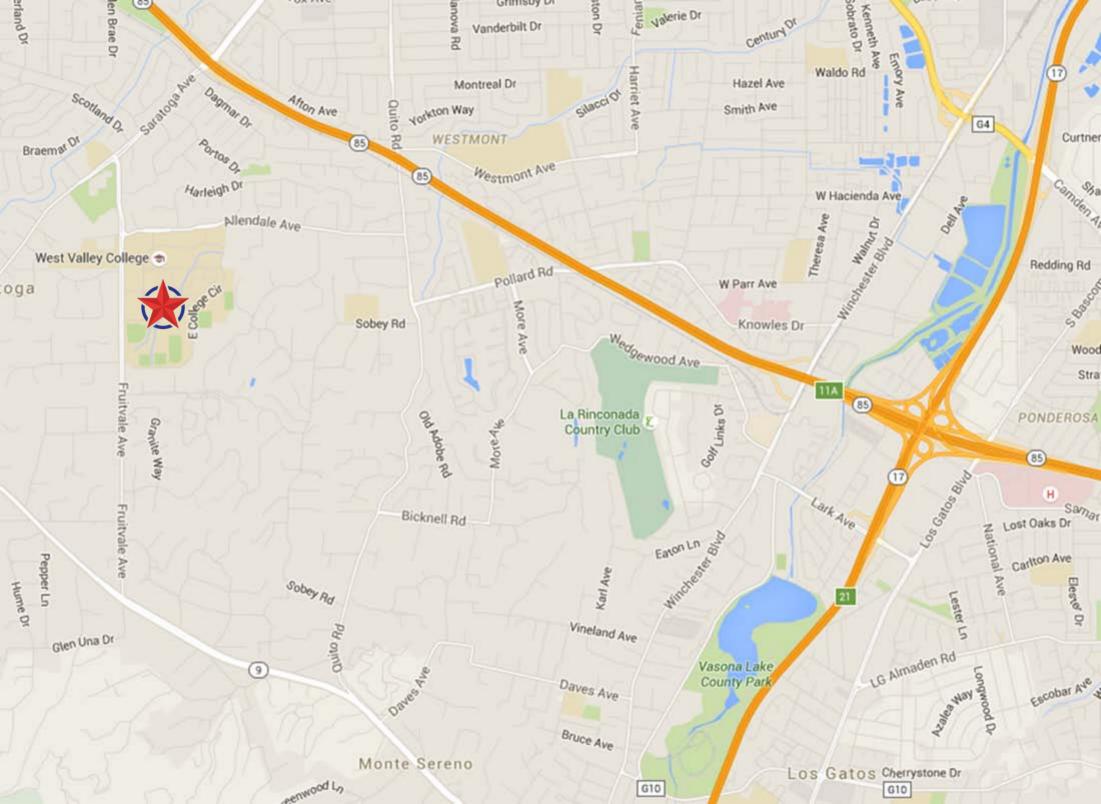


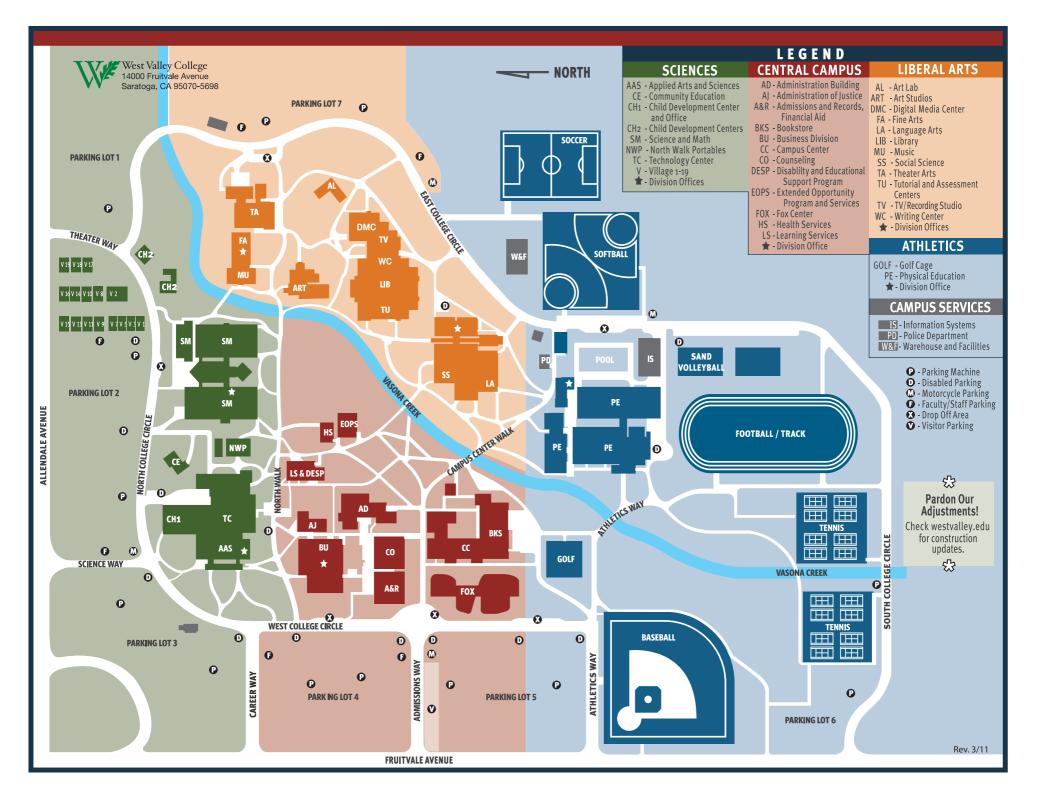
(V. 3-11-21)



## RESTROOM & CAMPING MAP







### **Kiwanis Special Games**

West Valley College

### Parking Instructions

Look at the attached campus and regional maps -- (also available here):

http://lakc.netfirms.com/sg/DL/WV.PDF http://lakc.netfirms.com/sg/DL/2WV.PDF

Most commonly, you will be going South on Fruitvale (bottom of the campus map, left to right).

Be in the left of the 2 lanes after you pass Allendale, and look for the blue text "Special Games Parking" signs and parking officials that will direct you into one of the left turns into campus parking.

Park tight and fill every slot.

Leave the Parking Pass on your dashboard.

The path from the corner of Lot 5 at the intersection of Athletics Way and West College Circle leads down to the track.

Please Carpool -- Parking is tight

Lots 4 & 5 -- athletes & all volunteers

# KIWANIS SPECIAL GAMES

West Valley Parking Permit

Place on dashboard

Thanks for Volunteering - You make the Special Games work!

Lots 4 & 5 -- athletes & all volunteers

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