



Special Olympics BC marking fourth annual EKS Day with celebrations in three B.C. communities

On Saturday, September 28, Special Olympics programs and people around the world will celebrate Eunice Kennedy Shriver's inspirational spirit and her vision for a more inclusive, respectful world in the fourth annual EKS Day. Special Olympics programs and communities worldwide will be hosting events full of inclusive sport and play to honour Mrs. Shriver's legacy.

In 2012, Special Olympics athletes, volunteers, and supporters came together with members of their community in wide-ranging locations – from Syria to the Bahamas, from Mexico to Russia, from Libya and Lebanon to Special Olympics BC's event in Langley – to honour Mrs. Shriver's vision and share the spirit of the empowering Special Olympics movement.

Building on our fun and engaging EKS Day event in Langley last year, and our first-ever EKS Day event in Nanaimo in 2011, there will be three Special Olympics BC **EKS Day sports days** hosted this year in Nanaimo, North Vancouver, and Vernon. With these events, we are inviting everyone to join in and experience the Special Olympics spirit of joy, inclusion, and empowerment through sport. The events will feature fun for all!

- Individuals with intellectual disabilities who might not yet be involved as athletes will have opportunities to try out some of the great sports on offer in Special Olympics;
- children with intellectual disabilities and their families can find out more about the fun and welcoming SOBC youth programs;
- community members looking to volunteer can find out more about the inspiring and empowering world of Special Olympics that coach Marie Telder describes so movingly: <http://www.specialolympics.bc.ca/news/2013/03/20/meet-coach-marie-telder>;
- and everyone can enjoy joining in with or cheering on the sports, and have fun meeting local Special Olympics athletes.

When

Saturday, September 28
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Where

Nanaimo: Woodlands Secondary School, Main Gym and Soccer Field
North Shore: Sutherland Secondary School
Vernon: Polson Park

Registration contacts

Nanaimo: Bobby Debrone, 250.208.5402 | bdebrone@specialolympics.bc.ca
North Shore: Rachel Borer, 604.737.3125 | rborer@specialolympics.bc.ca
Vernon: Leslie Thornley, 250.317.1272 | Lthornley@specialolympics.bc.ca

*Drop-ins welcome throughout the day

*Participants are asked to please wear proper athletic attire

About EKS Day

Eunice Kennedy Shriver Day is celebrated around the world to honour her life and impact and share her story to inspire new fans. We hope to inspire people of all ages to follow her example and commit themselves to improving the world for people with intellectual disabilities.

As founder and honorary chairperson of Special Olympics and executive vice president of the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation, Eunice Kennedy Shriver was a leader in the worldwide struggle to improve and enhance the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities for more than five decades. Eunice Kennedy Shriver's actions helped open the minds of all people to the gifts and talents of individuals with intellectual disabilities. She believed in their possibilities, and inspired all of us to make a difference. Eunice Kennedy Shriver demonstrated an indomitable spirit in action that one person could make a difference and change the world. Her lasting legacy must be our continued commitment to improve and transform the lives of the 200 million people worldwide with intellectual disabilities who still live with diminished opportunities and social disrespect, and are often neglected and hidden away.

www.eksday.org | www.eunicekennedyshriver.org

About Special Olympics BC

Special Olympics BC is dedicated to providing individuals with intellectual disabilities opportunities to enrich their lives and celebrate personal achievement through positive sport experiences. In 55 communities around the province, we provide year-round training and competitive opportunities in 18 different sports to more than 4,100 athletes of all ages and abilities, thanks to the dedication of over 3,200 volunteers.

www.specialolympics.bc.ca

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