**Welcome to White County Special Olympics**

We hear you want to join our White County Special Olympics family!! Here are a few things about us.

White County SO has sports year-round.

**December to March**

From December to March we have Basketball. We have a Skills team (for those new to basketball or for those that do not like to run the court); we also have 3-on-3 teams that play half-court and we have a 5-on-5 team, which is full court. In December, we start basketball practices at the old Reynolds School Gym. Then in January, we move our practices to the Zion Bethel Church Gym (Family Center) across from Twin Lakes High School. Practices are usually on Sunday afternoons. We have competitions at different high schools between January and March. Basketball Sectionals (at Logansport) are the 3rd Saturday in March and State Finals (Indianapolis) are the following weekend.

In March, (usually the second Saturday) we have our annual sports award banquet. This is a carry in for all athletes and their families. It’s usually at the Reynolds School gym. We give away awards for the year, we give away things to the athletes, we have a DJ for fun and dancing and we also sign up for the Spring sports during this time. Spring sports are Track & Field, Bocce (30 years old and older), Spring Bowling and Spring Unified Doubles Bowling.

**April to June**

Spring Games – When it warms up, we have track and field (Twin Lakes High School track, practices are usually on Sundays and always in Monticello); doubles bowling (at Best’s Bowling Center) and for our older athletes bocce (Twin Lakes Youth Sports Complex on 100 N just west of Subway on 6th Street). We go to Crawfordsville in May for our Area 4 Spring Games. From there we advance to Summer Games which is held in Terre Haute on the campus of Indiana State University. It is the second weekend in June (Friday, Saturday & Sunday). We stay in the dorms at ISU, or you can stay in a hotel of your choice, for the weekend.

**June to September**

The sports are Softball (our Skills team practices on the softball field behind Roosevelt and our regular Softball team practices at the City Park); Corn Toss (practices at Jeff & Connie Jordan’s) and Flag Football (Twin Lakes Football Field).

**September to December**

Fall bowling starts at Best’s Bowling Center. Fall bowling includes ramp bowling, singles bowling for our athletes and Unified 4-person Bowling teams.

**UNIFORMS**

White County SO provides uniforms at the competitions for all of our athletes. Please check with your coach prior to tournaments for appropriate wear. Please remember to turn in your uniform before leaving the event.

**TOURNAMENTS**

Each sport has 2-3 tournaments. Most of the tournaments are in Logansport; Crawfordsville, or Indy. Softball skills have one in Mishawaka. Summer Games are held in Terre Haute in June on the campus of Indiana State University. All of our tourneys are one day tourneys except for Summer Games in Terre Haute. Summer Games are always the 2nd weekend in June and lasts from Friday through Sunday. Just an FYI - - hotels do go fast for Terre Haute and are usually booked by the end of January so plan ahead if you are not going to stay in the dorms during this time.

**UNIFIED FIT CLUB**

Have you checked out Fit Club?  If not, stop by the hospital on Monday nights at 6:30 pm.  This group walks together and has an educational night once a month.  If you participate in Fit Club; get your goals in and go to Terre Haute in June, your athlete can receive a pair of new shoes for free.

**FUN TIMES**

Twice a year we get together to celebrate the accomplishments of our athletes.

In March we have our annual awards banquet/dinner in at the Reynolds gym. Our annual Fall cookout is in September during Corn Toss season.   Everyone brings a covered dish and White County SO supplies the meats. We have a fire pit for s’mores, corn toss fun, Bingo. It always a great time.

More information will be provided as these events gets closer.

**MEETINGS**

Athletes – The athletes who are 16 and older have a committee called the Athlete Input Committee or AIC. They meet periodically to discuss ideas and suggestions to make our program a better program as well as design our t-shirts when we go to Summer Games.

**FAMILIES**

There is usually a monthly open meeting for everyone just before the monthly County Management Team (CMT) board meetings.  This is a time for you to ask questions; give recommendations/suggestions; or if you have ideas on how to make our program better, please attend.

**FUNDRAISERS**

Throughout the year we have fundraisers that help White County SO be able to operate year-round without charging the athletes or their families for their participation in any or all of the programs we offer.

We do a yearly Bucket Shake, usually in April, to start the year of FUN-raisers. Right before Mother’s Day, we have a flower FUN-raiser. This is our biggest FUN-raiser where we sale roughly 1,000 flats of flowers. In June, during the Spirit Of Monticello Festival, we do a Fire Truck Pull for the public. And in October we have our Fannie May candy FUN-raiser, just in time for Thanksgiving and Christmas gifts. All the funds raised helps provide new uniforms, pays athlete training fees, pays for entry fees for all the tournaments we participate in, pays for the Summer Games weekend in Terre Haute, pays for trips to Area, State and National competitions, pays for new equipment and new sports, plus some many other things. In 2020, we are sending our two 4-person Unified Bowling Teams to Reno, Nevada to compete in the National Unified Bowling Tournament at the National Bowling Stadium. This is where the PBA Bowling tournaments are held. How exciting! We held a bowl-a-thon FUN-raiser for them.

**GETTING INVOLVED**

How to get started – I hope all that information didn’t scare you away because it is overwhelming to new families. You can participate in one or all the above sports and activities. This is a new family that you are joining, and we are all here to help you along the way, so don’t hesitate to ask questions. To get your son/daughter started we have 3 forms to fill out. They are the Athlete Participation Part 1 & Part 2 and Athlete Medical Form. This process is an online process and we can help you through the process. Please send an email to Kevin Anderson at whitecountyso91@gmail.com to get started.

**KEEP INFORMED**

If you have Facebook, please check out and join our White County SO Facebook page under “Special Olympics Indiana – White County”. This is where we do most of our communication about information of upcoming sports; tournaments; cancellations; etc.

We are glad you joined our family and can’t wait to see how your athlete(s) grows.

Kevin Anderson

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