

Special Olympics Washington  
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Chairmen

The Special Olympics Washington Summer Games was held during the weekend of June 2-4, at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma. Due to events happening at Department Headquarters and covid restrictions there was a time that we were not sure if we would be able to participate this year. Once the decision was made to press forward, we had to work on funding. I would like to thank Lacey Post 94, University Place Post 138, and Puyallup Post 67 for stepping up and contributing startup money. A very special thank you to the 40et8 for their generous contribution, and to Frito Lay for their donation of chips (lots and lots of chips).

We bought enough supplies for 1200 athletes and 1500 coaches, families, and volunteers. We provided coffee, tea, fruit drink, and various snack items to last for the three-day event. We had to take special care to ensure that we provided items that would not affect allergies or have too much sweeteners. This was not as easy as it sounds.

We set up venues at track and field, soccer and Olympic Village. I would like to thank all of the volunteers who made this event possible. Olympic Village was run by two teenage girls who did an outstanding job. Volunteers were assigned to specific venues, and really did a great job. We had about 20 volunteers. We always need more volunteers. I would also like to also thank those who donated pins, caps and various items that were used as prizes for games at the Olympic Village. We do not charge for anything we provide.

The American Legion is the only Veterans Organization who serves on the Leadership Committee and we are a well group who is counted on to make these events a success. The athletes come and show us their medals and visit with our volunteers. If we concentrated as hard on what needs to be done, and worked as hard as these athletes we would all be in a great place. Special Olympics is a great public relations event for the Legion, and the participants look forward to seeing us every year.

Thank you to all the members of the Department of Washington for helping make this a successful event.