

MISSION STATEMENT

The general purpose of The Hunterdon Outreach Programs is to promote a conducive environment for individuals with physical and mental disabilities to learn and participate in sporting and related activities with volunteers from the community, and to promote to the volunteers the opportunity to interact with and learn about those with special needs.

Hunterdon Outreach Programs = HOPs



motor skills and gain an important sense of sportsmanship, participation and accomplishment. In addition to the opportunity to compete, HOPs brings these athletes in contact with youth volunteers from the community at large. No prior experience is required to help. Our volunteers come from high school sports, high school and middle school clubs, National Honor Society, travel and recreation sports organizations, religious and social groups as well as individuals in the community with the desire to serve. The interaction with the special needs athletes helps to dispel many of the myths associated with the challenged and will hopefully bridge the gap between the physically and mentally challenged and those who are not.

PROGRAMS

HOPs BASKETBALL - January through February
HOPs BASEBALL - Mid-April through Mid-June
HOPs TENNIS - Year Round
HOPs SOCCER - September through Mid-November

Please see our website for Time/Date details:

www.HunterdonOutreach.org

Athletes play and compete based on ability and size, not necessarily by age. HOPs continuously seeks volunteers to mentor and 'buddy up' with special needs athletes in order to facilitate teaching the basics of a sport or activity and ensure safety. An athlete who may have restricted movement such as those in a wheelchair, can participate with more than one volunteer in the same drills that other athletes are performing, but in a modified fashion.

Athletes who are self-mobile may require volunteer assistance to learn how to kick, throw, where to stand and how to give and receive passes. Our Trainers coordinate the agenda to make both volunteering and playing fun and rewarding.



VOLUNTEERING

This is a great chance to become involved and help in your community. Volunteers will experience firsthand the gift and joy of giving in a way that is natural and fun. HOPs offers leadership opportunities to students in the form of program organization. We empower the group leaders to design and implement and recruit volunteers for seasonal sporting programs and social events. HOPs can certify volunteer participation to any organization, school, honor society or religious organization upon request. Students have found this to be a useful tool in fulfilling community service requirements for high school, college and religious organizations. Volunteers must sign up on our web site and are required to complete a volunteer registration form. All volunteer attendance is recorded for statistical and insurance purposes.

GENERAL

Founded in 2003, our organization has grown to include sports such as Baseball in the spring, Basketball in winter, Soccer in the fall and Tennis year round. We also conduct special one day clinics such as HOPs Football, a seminar conducted by the Hunterdon Central varsity football team and HOPs Day Of Fitness conducted by the Voorhees HS varsity wrestling team. Social and cultural programs and day trips to sporting events are offered throughout the year and help to provide the physically and mentally challenged with additional avenues for socialization and interaction.

HOPs showcases sports to children who are not normally recruited to participate. The children compete in specially designed formats to improve

COSTS

There is no cost to athletes. We rely on the generosity of our volunteers and our many corporate and religious organization sponsors to provide our programs. See web site for details.

SPONSORSHIPS

It is only through the generosity of our sponsors that HOPs can provide our programs. HOPs welcomes contributions of money and products to offset the costs and make our programs accessible to all challenged athletes. Interested individuals and businesses may contact us through our website.

HOPs is administered and organized by Volunteers. HOPs is a non-profit organization with US Government Non Profit 501(c)(3) certification.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

HOPs athletes often are invited to participate in special projects planned and organized by many of our dedicated and compassionate volunteers that benefit our athletes. For example, HOPs centered Eagle Scout or Girl Scout Gold Award Projects.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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**SPORTS OPPORTUNITIES
FOR
SPECIAL NEEDS ATHLETES
AND VOLUNTEERS OF
ALL AGES**



www.HunterdonOutreach.org

