



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cuyahoga Valley
National Park

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Cuyahoga Valley National Park News Release

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Winter Special Olympics Games Held at Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Brecksville, Ohio - Once again, Cuyahoga Valley National Park will be hosting the Ohio Winter Special Olympics. Special Olympians will be competing in four sports on January 28 and January 29, 2009. The events will take place at Brandywine Ski Resort, Cuyahoga Valley National Park, and Kent State University.

Alpine skiing, Nordic skiing, speed skating, and figure skating are the four sports in which the athletes will compete. Events such as the Giant Slalom, pairs figure skating, and the 1,500-meter speed skate are just some of the events in which the athletes will strive to earn a medal. Unified events will also be held in each of the four sports. Unified events pair a Special Olympics athlete with a non-disabled partner to compete against other Unified teams.

The schedule of events for Alpine and Nordic skiing is tentative based upon weather and amount of snow.

Opening Ceremonies will be held Wednesday, January 28 at 4:30 p.m. at the Virginia Kendall Lake Shelter in Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The ceremonies will include the traditional parade of athletes and the lighting of the Olympic torch.

Special Olympics Ohio provides year-round sports training and competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, and experience joy as they participate in the sharing of gifts and friendship with their own families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community. For more information about Special Olympics Ohio, visit www.sooh.org.

CVNP encompasses 33,000 acres along the Cuyahoga River between Cleveland and Akron. Managed by the National Park Service, CVNP combines cultural, historical, recreational, and natural activities in one setting. For more information about the park, visit www.nps.gov/cuva/ or www.dayinthevalley.com/ or call (216) 524-1497 or (800) 445-9667.

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