

Fans in the Stands

No one likes playing or competing in front of empty bleachers! It's easy to get Fans in the Stand started at your school – bring a group of friends, design big posters, gather at a local Special Olympics or Unified Sports® game or tournament, and cheer like crazy! Whether athletes are on the court, field, or in the stadium, having cheering fans in the stands can be crucial to the motivation (and outcome) of the team! Encourage members of your school to organize groups to be at every game or tournament to support Special Olympics athletes year-round. Start Fans in the Stands at your school to ensure that every athlete and team has supporting fans who cheer every game, rain or shine, win or lose.

Where should I have an event?

You can contact your local Special Olympics program to find out what sports they offer, and what times they practice and compete so you can choose a time good for you and your friends!

How do I advertise the event?

Contact your local Special Olympics program, as they can post it on their website and tell the teams that you are coming. You can put out flyers at your school and have it included in the school announcements. You could even contact your local newspaper!

What are cool things to bring?

You can get big poster board, markers, and fun crafty items to make signs and posters! You might even be able to contact the coach to get the athlete's names. You can also buy face paint, streamers, and clappers! T-shirts are also a great way to make your group of fans stand out!

What type of events can I have before the game?

There are lots of fun ways to get ready for the game. You can have the poster-making and face-painting be an event all on its own before the game. You could also have a BBQ or order pizza so all of the fans have tons of energy before the game starts. You can bring music to get everyone pumped!

Who can I reach out to for ideas and see what they have done?

Your state Special Olympics program should be able to help you get started. You can also go on the Special Olympics Fan Community site, and also check out other Fan Pages on Facebook!