

Inspiring the first unified generation.

Special
Olympics
Virginia



Global Messenger

Joe Melugin

Years Involved with Special Olympics: 13

Hometown: Gordonsville, Virginia

Sports: Power Lifting, Track and Field

Educational/Work History: Freshman at Germanna Community College in Geology, Working as a dishwasher at Country Cookin in Culpeper, Volunteering as a firefighter with the Barboursville VFD, Athlete Representative to the Area 17 Council

Career Goals: Wants to be a Paleontologist

People Admired: Parents, Siblings, and Grandparents. Admires fiction writers and those who stand up for those who can't.

Why is it important to build a more unified generation? "It is important to build a more unified generation because we are all humans and we all deserve the same opportunities."

Why is Special Olympics important to you? "It is important to me because not only can it help me to become physically fit, but socially fit as well. It has changed the way I look at the world. I see more opportunities to make friends and help others feel included as well."



"I don't believe in calling things disabilities, I believe in calling them obstacles because obstacles can be overcome."

*Joe Melugin
Global Messenger*



*Ben Melugin,
Mentor*

Global Messengers are Special Olympics Virginia athletes who help spread the message and vision of the movement as well as the benefits gained by participation in Special Olympics. Global Messengers deliver a powerful message of respect, inclusion, unity and attitudinal change. For more information regarding the Special Olympics Virginia Global Messenger program please contact David Pawlowski at 804-726-3034 or