

Special Olympics Kansas

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Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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Rodnel Turner Selected as Most Inspirational Athlete Special Olympics Kansas Summer Games 2017

Mission, KS.—Every year Special Olympics Kansas recognizes a Most Inspirational Athlete at Summer Games in Wichita, Kan. This award is not just about competing well in events, but it is about being positive and encouraging others, both on and off the field. This year, Rodnel Turner, a member of the Topeka Shawnee Special Olympics team, received the award. He was selected from over 1300 athletes at the games.

In addition to competing in basketball, track & field, softball, bowling, and bocce, Turner is a great teammate off the field.

During high school, Turner was in the Navy Junior ROTC. He was a member of the drill team and competed against other programs. Turner worked very hard to mirror the moves of the squad and complete a number of complex drill movements. The drill team won competitions at the regional and state levels while he was competing. He also held the position of Supply Officer in JROTC

Turner is on the Autism spectrum. He has glaucoma and is legally blind. He competes in basketball, track, softball, bowling and bocce. He runs seven miles every day and his favorite sport is track and field.

Turner's teammates said he is also a great person off the field. He is always willing to help, smiling, and wants others to improve in areas they are passionate about as well. He is currently playing outfield with the Topeka Stars Special Olympics softball team and will travel to Bismarck, ND for the Special Olympics North American Softball Invitational in August.

Off the field, Tuner works at Henry T's restaurant in Topeka and makes time to volunteer at places such as Harvesters and Let's Help. Last year, he was the deputy food service manager at Camp Jayhawk Scout Camp.

At the Opening Ceremony of Summer Games in 2018, Turner will have the honor of lighting the torch to kick off the games, along with the officers of the Law Enforcement Torch Run.

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