

Winter Special Olympics

Overview: The Dartmouth Club of the Upper Valley began sponsoring a Winter Special Olympics at the Dartmouth Skiway about 20 years ago. Participants included “intellectually challenged” athletes from both New Hampshire and Vermont. We had Alpine races, Nordic races, and snowshoe races.

The DCUV decided we wanted to establish an ongoing community service project and settled on the Winter Special Olympics, in large part because we had access to local venues (the Dartmouth Skiway), there were regional Winter Special Olympics in both NH and VT, which allowed us to access both expertise and equipment, and because we knew there was a significant critical mass of potential athletes for this event. We were also confident that there would be a large group of volunteers from the Upper Valley – primarily college and high school students.

We assembled a management team made up of DCUV members, assigned each a specific task – overall coordinator, volunteers, supplies and equipment, food and drink, publicity and public relations, venue liaison, etc. We also worked closely with the state Special Olympics organizations, and the various local Special Olympics teams throughout the twin states.

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