Ride the waves of Inspiration to change lives!

Become a Water Warriors Rider!

- Riders must be at least 18 years old.
- Fundraising commitment is $1,500 for the week-long ride for all riders. Other ride durations and fundraising commitments are available.
- Riders must provide their own PWC.
- Fuel for PWC's is provided.
- Professional fundraising support is available to all riders to raise their total commitment.



For more information contact:

WATER WARRIORS
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or visit www.waterwarriors.us

Special Olympics Michigan

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One Warrior's Story

Back in 1980, I was asked to be a volunteer for the Special Olympics Michigan State Winter Games. Not knowing what to expect I said "Yes," and the rest, let's say is history. I was so moved and touched by the experience that I knew right away I had to stay involved. Working with the Special Olympics Michigan Athletes and seeing firsthand, what a difference that experience was for them (and me) is hard to put into words.

Twenty years ago, I heard about the Water Warriors. I thought to myself, "Hmmmmm, that would be fun. I love the water. I can lend more support for Special Olympics Michigan to help enrich more lives and how hard can it be." I contacted the coordinator for the Water Warriors and expressed my interest in joining the group. (What I did not tell her was that I had never been on a personal watercraft (PWC) before). I was able to secure the use of a machine for the week and it was delivered to Mackinaw with the rest of the Water Warriors machines.



We left Mackinaw and I have to tell you it was the worst ride of my life! For most of the week, it was cold, rainy, extremely rough seas and I really didn't know how I could go on.

What put it in perspective was meeting the Special Olympics Michigan Athletes along the way, listening to them, dining with them and giving them rides on our PWCs. Knowing how appreciative they are when individuals, like myself, support them in their efforts to be all that they can be, truly gave me the spirit to ride. I also have to tell you that I have met a group of volunteers who over the years have given so much of their time, talent and resources to help others. I am so blessed for the lifetime friendships I have made and will continue to make with my fellow Water Warriors, Special Olympics Michigan Athletes and Volunteers.

As long as I am able to, I WILL be a part of the Water Warriors and to continue to help support and be a part of enriching the lives of some very special individuals. I hope that you will consider doing the same.

- Bob Schrage, Warrior since 1996

Special Olympics Michigan

Water Warriors

Special Olympics Michigan

WATER WARRIORS Mackinaw Ride

2016 Ride Dates: July 24 - July 29

Riding more than 400 miles annually to change lives through Special Olympics Michigan.

Est. 1991

Where does the money go?

The Water Warriors Mackinaw Ride raises money to support sports programs for Special Olympics Michigan. With the help of the Warriors, the athletes of Special Olympics can experience the thrill of sports. Equipment necessary for training and competing are purchased with the help of this funding. Athletes attend local training and competition before going on to compete in regional and state finals. Special Olympics helps athletes with intellectual disabilities gain confidence, learn rules, and skills that carry over into other parts of their life.

Warriors Road Map

The Water Warriors ride their way 400 miles down Lake Huron and the St. Clair River.

The 26th annual ride will begin on July 24 in Mackinaw City and spans five days ending on Harsens Island on July 29.



Who are the Water Warriors?

26 years ago, a group of men and women thought that it would be fun to ride PWCs the length of Lake Huron for a cause.



In 1991, this group's dream became reality when they founded the Water Warriors.

The Water Warriors team consists of PWC riders and support crew members from across the state of Michigan and from all walks of life.

The Water Warriors trek the length of Lake Huron and the St. Clair River in an annual 400-mile PWC endurance ride to raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics Michigan.

Since their first ride in 1991, the Water Warriors have raised more than $2.3 million to support Special Olympics Michigan. The Water Warriors are currently the Presenting Sponsor for the Special Olympics Michigan State Poly Hockey Finals, held each November in Lansing.





"The obstacles the Water Warriors face on the ride are small compared to the obstacles the athletes endure in their life. This ride is about people helping people overcome those obstacles and realize their dreams."

- Ann Plegue, Water Warrior

"Knowing that I am part of something that makes a difference in the lives of so many Special Olympics Michigan Athletes is one of the best feelings you can experience."

- Kristina Turchi, Water Warrior

"The Water Warriors have helped me in so many ways. Their support of Special Olympics Michigan helps me stay in shape and stay fit. Also, it has helped me make so many new friendships as well."

- Viann Markel, Special Olympics Michigan Athlete



Special Olympics Michigan