

## TOURISM DEVELOPMENT



*Special Olympics Forsyth County*

# Special Olympics to host tourney

**T**hough it began as a desire to "compete" against other teams in preparation for the state games, a little friendly competition grew into the Battle of the Bats. This softball invitational has become a highly anticipated sporting event for friends, family and community members who support Special Olympics Forsyth.

More than 22 Special Olympic softball teams from Georgia and bordering states compete for the gold. On Aug. 27, more than 350 Special Olympic athletes, coaches, volunteers, family and friends will gather at Central Park for the Battle of the Bats. These teams include SO Forsyth's own gold medal teams. The competition is fierce, lasting friendships are made and smiles are shared.

Special Olympics Forsyth has served Forsyth County for more than 20 years. In the past six years it has seen a tremendous growth in programs and athlete participation due to the collaboration of Forsyth County Schools, the local parks and recreation department, parents and

community organizations.

SO Forsyth provides a true sporting program which promotes teamwork, physical fitness, self-confidence and inspiration along with an environment for healthy social interaction that would not be available otherwise. This program is unique in that it fosters and promotes sports, recreation and social opportunities outside school and the home. The spirit of SO Forsyth can be found in its core volunteers who donate their time as coaches, event workers and committee members to support and promote their events. The Battle of the Bats is an annual event that continues to grow and draw teams from across Georgia.

The economic impact of this tournament will be significant as The Hampton Inn is the host hotel and many teams will be spending two nights here. Thank you SO Forsyth for hosting the tournament again and helping our community grow! For more information on Special Olympics Forsyth, visit [www.SOForsht.com](http://www.SOForsht.com).