

District Teacher Assists Special Olympians



Eric Strand poses with participants in the events.

Hopatcong Middle School teacher and ski advisor, Eric Strand, also an avid skier, took his skills to the slopes to assist athletes participating in alpine events during the annual *New Jersey Special Olympics*. The events were held at Mountain Creek February 7-9, 2011 and were attended by over 100 special-needs athletes. The participants competed in slalom and giant slalom events at beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels. Strand says, “Some of these kids are really great skiers. I’m in awe of their determination and will to succeed.”

“I have had a positive experience every time I have attended the games. As volunteers, we come away energized by our participation.” The athletes always come prepared to compete and have fun, and to reinforce friendships forged along the mountain trails.

The Special Olympics holds season-appropriate events throughout the year. It has recently been announced that New Jersey will be hosting the National Summer Games in 2014. If anyone is interested in helping at a future event, please contact the New Jersey Special Olympics at www.sonj.org.

For additional information, contact
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