



***Special
Olympics
Montana***

Record of

**Distinguished
Service Awards**

ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Year	Recipient	City
2026	Hilary Benjamin	Missoula
2025	Kyle Norman	Helena
2024	Jared Redeen	Missoula
2022	Kyler Morrison	Whitefish
2021	DJ Jackson	Missoula
2020	Betsy Schaffer	Great Falls
2019	Kandi Christophersen	Billings
2018	Jamie Darko	Great Falls
2017	Nick Roberts	Great Falls
2016	Jessica Hasler	Billings
2015	Skylehr Stiles	Bozeman
2014	Josh Anderson	Great Falls
2013	Chrissy Siefke	Kalispell
2012	Jena Lawson	Great Falls
2011	Merle "Buzz" Toliver	Lockwood
2010	Stacey Johnston	Chester
2009	Michael Schaff	Helena
2008	Brandy Peterson	Billings
2007	Anton Veverka	Glendive
2006	Vivienne Shockley	Billings
2005	Kenny Hedrich	Bozeman
2004	Tawny Gray	Missoula
2003	Devin Zaic	Hardin
2002	Justin Taylor	Kalispell
2001	Kerrie Sheets	Billings
2000	Stuart Brownlow	Helena
1999	Ruschelle Tyvand	Butte
1998	Eddie Stansberry	Missoula
1997	Charlie Rickard	Kalispell
1996	Edward Petersen	Billings
1995	Laura Saski	Havre
1994	Paul Hughes	Missoula
1993	Lisa Holland	Great Falls

LOCAL PROGRAM OF THE YEAR

Year	Recipient	City
2026	Helena Halos	Helena
2025	Billings Adults	Billings
2024	Miles City Adults	Miles City
2022	Miles City Youth	Miles City
2021	Purple Hornets	Great Falls
2020	Polson Pirates	Polson
2019	Red Lodge Olympians	Red Lodge
2018	Great Falls Black Hornets	Great Falls
2017	Conrad Cougars	Conrad
2016	Teton Tigers	Fairfield
2015	Bozeman Flames	Bozeman
2014	Tri County Wolves	Helena
2013	Shelby Life	Shelby
2012	Jobs Thunder	Missoula
2011	Tri-County Twisters	Helena
2009	Great Falls Hornets	Great Falls
2008 (2)	Billings Adults - large	Billings
2008	Glendive - small	Glendive
2007	Bitterroot Stars	Stevensville
2006 (2)	Havre Public Schools	Havre
2006	Havre Day Activities	Havre
2005	Special K Ranch	Columbus
2004	Great Falls Lions	Great Falls
2003	Northern Plains	Opheim
2002	Cut Bank Special Olympics	Cut Bank
2001	Missoula County High Schools	Missoula
2000	SO Tobacco Valley	Eureka
1999	Special Olympics Helena	Helena
1998	Glasgow Special Olympics	Glasgow
1997	Montana Development Center	Boulder
1996	Missoula Family YMCA	Missoula
1995	Outreach Bobcats	Bozeman
1994	Ashland Special Olympics	Ashland
1993	None Listed	

FAMILY OF THE YEAR

Year	Recipient	City
2026		
2025	Larson Family	Billings
2024	Carl, Kaylene, and Carson Patten	Lewistown
2022-2023	Anderson Family (Josh & Cindy)	Great Falls
2021	Redeen Family	Great Falls
2020	McDougall Family	Shelby
2019	Norman Family	Helena
2018	Schroeder Family	Choteau
2017	Daughton Family	Eureka
2016	Patten Family	Lewistown
2015	Fauque-Racine Family	Choteau
2014	Davis Family	Helena
2013	Jenkins Family	Great Falls
2012	Minchew Family	Billings
2011	Mike Roberts Family	Great Falls
2009	Schelling Family	Olney
2008	Isaac Baldry Family	Miles City
2007	The Bowman-Lyons Family	Great Falls
2006	The Anderson Family	Troy
2005	The Stiles Family	Belgrade
2004	The Zier Family	Stevensville
2003	The Siebrecht Family	Cut Bank
2002	The Senne Family	Missoula
2001	The Zaic Family	St Xavier
2000	Al & Cindy Michaels	Glendive
1999	Doug & Rnita Powell	Billings
1998	The Rohyan Family	Helena
1997	Ron Walter Family	Shelby
1996	Sherry Gray and David O'Hern	Alberton
1995	Si & Claire Holman	Butte
1994	Richard & Jane Bonine	Miles City
1993	Al, Jan & Julie Bertelsen	Bozeman

COACH OF THE YEAR

Year	Recipient	City
2026	Chris Findley	Helena
2025	Steve Lettengarver	Fairfield
2024	Brooke Hollowell	Miles City
2022-2023	Kent Morrison	Whitefish
2021	Paige Flotkoetter	Billings
2020	Erlonna Erickson	Lewistown
2019	Dallas Skinner	Bozeman
2018	Jenny Griswold	Kalispell
2017	Denny Hogan	Great Falls
2016	Kris Kelly	Polson
2015	Kim Farley	Billings
2014	Derry Lewis	Great Falls
2013	Mike Huber	Lewistown
2012	Doyle Davis	Helena
2011	Melanie Williams	Clancy
2009	Ray Mitchell	Kalispell
2008	Micky Williams	Great Falls
2007	Nicole Knight	Billings
2006	Virgil Bullshoe	Browning
2005	Tammy Matzke	Billings
2004	Joe Ouert	Great Falls
2003	Sheila Franey	Boulder
2002	Jeff Elliott	Helena
2001	Nicky Buress	Great Falls
2000	Carl Oliveri	Colstrip
1999 (2)	Pam Underwood	Great Falls
1999	Angie Walker	Great Falls
1998	Dave O'Hern	Alberton
1997	Rosie Combs	Great Falls
1996	Ed Bringenberg	Missoula
1995	Pete Stiles	Helena
1994	Annie Cella	East Glacier
1993	Ann Dorrance	Helena

HALL OF FAME

Year	Recipient	City	Role
2026			
2025	Tammy Grimm	Billings	LPC Billings Thunder
2024	Tiffani Coleman	Billings	YVAR Competition Coordinator
2022-2023	Cyndi Huempfner	Bozeman	BSAR Finance Coordinator
2021	Terri Siefke	Kalispell	
2020	Barb Parrish	Kalispell	
2019	Diane Hartman	Lewistown	
2018	Pam Underwood	Great Falls	
2017	Star Darko	Great Falls	
2016	Lt. Jack Allen	Great Falls	
2015	John Parkes	Bozeman	
2014	Gary McManus	Great Falls	
2013	Kelly Lawson	Great Falls	
2012	Marion Smith	Great Falls	
2011	Jack & Bobbie Whelan	Butte	
2009	Gail Sheets	Billings	
2008	Dana Darko	Great Falls	
2007	WyAnn Northrop	Missoula	
2006	The Oakland Family	Great Falls	
2005	Jim Kack	Bozeman	
2004	Robin Pambrun	Cut Bank	
2003	Rosie Comes	Great Falls	
2002	Sandy Anderson	Glendive	
2001	Beverly Owens	Billings	
2000	Sharon Hanni	Butte	
1999	Al Bertelsen	Bozeman	
1998	Jodel Petroni	Butte	
1997	Leon Pappy Saylor	Great Falls	
1996	Pat Lee	Kalispell	
1995	Dr. Brinkley	Great Falls	
1994	None Listed		
1993	None Listed		

ADULT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Year	Recipient	City	Role
2026			
2025	Kim Diest	Kalispell	
2024	Amanda Minchew	Billings	
2022-2023	Bill Merritt	Polson	Polson Pirates
2021	Lisa Hunter	Anaconda	
2020	Kathleen Wanner	Great Falls	
2019	Kevin Evans	Billings	
2018	Andy Minchew	Billings	
2017	Emily Schaff	Billings	
2016	Mandy Hansen	Havre	
2015	Tiffani Coleman	Billings	
2014	Joan Redeen	Great Falls	
2013	Tracy Neary	Billings	
2012	Terri Siefke	Kalispell	
2011	Heather Fust	Bozeman	
2009	Lauren Ludwig	Bozeman	
2008	Cindy Ruffner	Butte	
2007	Ray Mitchell	Kalispell	
2006	Cyndi Huempfner	Bozeman	
2005	Jean & Ernie Peters	Great Falls	
2004	Jack Allen	Great Falls	
2004 (2)	Jeff Fauque	Cut Bank	
2003	Randy Hodgson	Stevensville	
2002 (2)	Pete & Helen Kelly	Missoula	
2001	Debbie Bishop	Boulder	
2000	Paula Jimenez	Missoula	
2000 (2)	Ron Bowden	Great Falls	
1999	James Lester	Butte	
1998	Larry Bittner	Bozeman	
1997	Janet Erickson	Miles City	
1996	John Pahut	Butte	
1995 (2)	Tess & Ron Nodland	Sidney	
1994	Phil Mullette	Helena	
1993	Vince Fernandes	Great Falls	

ADULT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Year	Recipient	City	Role
2026			
2025	Kim Diest	Kalispell	
2024	Amanda Minchew	Billings	
2022-2023	Bill Merritt	Polson	Polson Pirates
2021	Lisa Hunter	Anaconda	
2020	Kathleen Wanner	Great Falls	
2019	Kevin Evans	Billings	
2018	Andy Minchew	Billings	
2017	Emily Schaff	Billings	
2016	Mandy Hansen	Havre	
2015	Tiffani Coleman	Billings	
2014	Joan Redeen	Great Falls	
2013	Tracy Neary	Billings	
2012	Terri Siefke	Kalispell	
2011	Heather Fust	Bozeman	
2009	Lauren Ludwig	Bozeman	
2008	Cindy Ruffner	Butte	
2007	Ray Mitchell	Kalispell	
2006	Cyndi Huempfner	Bozeman	
2005	Jean & Ernie Peters	Great Falls	
2004	Jack Allen	Great Falls	
2004 (2)	Jeff Fauque	Cut Bank	
2003	Randy Hodgson	Stevensville	
2002 (2)	Pete & Helen Kelly	Missoula	
2001	Debbie Bishop	Boulder	
2000	Paula Jimenez	Missoula	
2000 (2)	Ron Bowden	Great Falls	
1999	James Lester	Butte	
1998	Larry Bittner	Bozeman	
1997	Janet Erickson	Miles City	
1996	John Pahut	Butte	
1995 (2)	Tess & Ron Nodland	Sidney	
1994	Phil Mullette	Helena	
1993	Vince Fernandes	Great Falls	

YOUTH VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Year	Recipient	City	Local Program
2026			
2025	Jai Baumann	Box Elder	Unified Partner Box Elder Bears
2022-2023	Fern Stewart	Hamilton	Unified Partner at Hamilton HS
2021	Bethany Butler	Polson	
2020	Emma Glassing	Billings	
2019	Benjamin Fenton	Billings	
2018	Shiloh Corcoran	Helena	
2017	Jayson Wanner	Great Falls	
2016	Katrina Roberts	Great Falls	
2015	Katey Deist	Kalispell	
2014	Katie Jenneskens	Helena	
2013	Madeline Sanford	Great Falls	
2012	Tia Davis	Helena	
2011	Emma Earl	Chester	
2009	Kayla Hoar	Butte	
2008	Healy Lyons	Great Falls	
2007	Nathan Topliff	Whitefish	
2006	Taryn Jones	Billings	
2005	Linsey Burton	Great Falls	
2004(2)	Alyssa Northrop	Missoula	
2004	Thomas White	Columbus	
2003(2)	Tara Weir	Great Falls	
2003	Joey Hancock	Great Falls	
2002(2)	Fred Pambrun	Cut Bank	
2002	Kristi Anderson	Great Falls	
2001	Matthew Felber	E Helena	
2000	Megan Regimbal	Great Falls	
1999(2)	Buddy Evenson	Kalispell	
1999	Mike Ouert	Great Falls	
1998	Vanessa Browning	Billings	
1997	Neil Tocher	Great Falls	
1996	Raylynn Danklefsen	Miles City	
1995	Renae Iversen	Sidney	
1994	Jessie Combs	Great Falls	
1993(2)	Roni Flint	Sidney	
1993	Kyle Cameron	Miles City	

UCS

Year	Recipient	City
2026	Billings West	Billings
2025	Carroll College	Helena
2022-2023	GFPS Early Learning Family Center	Great Falls
2021	Carroll College	Helena
2020	Hamilton High School	Hamilton
2019	Riverview Elementary School	Great Falls
2018	Kalispell Public Schools	Kalispell
2017	Bozeman High School	Bozeman
2016	Great Falls Public Schools - PreK	Great Falls
2014	Victor Schools	Victor
2015	Missoula County Public Schools	Missoula

SPIRIT OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS (IND)

Year	Recipient	City
2026		
2025	Kris Kelly	Polson
2024	Rhona Webb	Billings
2019	Tina Hoeger	Billings
2018	Micky Mosby	Great Falls
2017	Vern Francis	Great Falls
2016	Pattie Minchew	Billings
2015	Jason Parce	Kalispell
2014	Bob Wojciekowski	Great Falls
2013	Helen Kelly	Missoula
2013	Penni Kolpin	Bozeman
2012	Laura Jo McKamey	Shelby
2011	Jason Johnson	Bonner
2009	Vanessa Browning	Billings
2008	Peggy Stiles	Belgrade
2007	Reg Heikkila	Great Falls
2006	Pete Kelly	Missoula
2005	Todd Hoar	Butte
2004	Jerry Williams	Butte
2003	Sherry Gray	Missoula
2002	Bob Morris	Clancy
2001	Bob McCullough	Great Falls
2000	Chuck Kohut	Great Falls
1999	Ed Barry	Bozeman
1998	Leslie Oakland	Great Falls
1997	Jim Kack	Bozeman
1996	Mary Jo Mahoney	Butte
1995	Mike Tooley	Helena
1994	Cindy Peterson	Fairfield
1993	Nick Cladis	Billings

ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

Year	Recipient	City
2026		
2025	Great Falls Police Department	Great Falls
2019	Kenny Simpson Nissan of Helena	Helena
2018	Sleeping Giants Lanes	Helena
2015	Dennis & Phyllis Washington	Missoula
2013	Missoula Family YMCA	Missoula
2012	Business Professionals of America	Statewide
2011	RightNow Technologies	Bozeman
2009	LETR	Statewide
2008	Bitterroot Therapeutic Riding	Corvallis
2007	No Recipient	
2006	Park High School	Livingston
2005	No Recipient	
2004	Icedogs Hockey	Bozeman
2003	No Recipient	
2002	Missoula Family YMCA	Missoula
2002	Knights of Columbus	Statewide
2001	Rocky Mtn Assoc. of the ARC	Butte
2001	Richland Opportunities, Inc.	Sidney
2001	Retired Seniors Volunteer Prog.	Great Falls
2000	Montana Police Protective Association	Statewide
1999	Great Falls Public Schools	Great Falls
1998	Missoula Equestrian Park	Missoula
1997	SPARCs	Butte
1996	BSW, Inc.	Butte
1995	Oddfellows and Rebekahs	Statewide
1995	Montana Good Sam Club	Statewide
1995	Epision Sigma Alpha	Billings
1994	Montana Knights of Columbus	Helena
1994	Montana Division Key Club	Billings
1994	Montana Air National Guard	Statewide
1994	Malmstrom Air Force Base	Great Falls
1994	Gold Rush Lions	Helena
1994	American Legion Post 41	Glasgow
1993	Montana Air National Guard	Statewide
1993	Miles Community College Women's Volleyball	Miles City

1993

Malmstrom Air Force Base

Great Falls

1993

City Motors Friendship Fund

Great Falls

OUTSTANDING BROADCAST/ MEDIA PERSON

Year	Recipient	City
2019	STARadio	
2018	Jim Sargent	Great Falls
2017	Tom Wylie	Great Falls
2016	Dennis Bragg	Missoula
2015	Sally Finneran	Bigfork
2014	Art Taft	Great Falls
2013	Zach Benoit	Billings
2009	Gail Schontzler	Bozeman
2005	No Nominations	
2003	No Nominations	
2002	Michelle Helms	Great Falls
2001	Anna Rau	Billings
2000	Craig Johnson	
2000	Al Koessler	Missoula
1999	Wendy Ostrem Price	Kalispell
1998	No Nominations	
1997	Craig & Al	Missoula
1996	Ron Davis	Butte
1995	Scott Kilbury	Missoula
1995	Jeremy Jorgenson	Great Falls
1994	Dave Wilson	Great Falls
1993	Troy Mellinger	Great Falls

MEDIA SUPPORT

Year	Recipient	City
2015	Montana Television Network	Statewide Winner
2013	Great Falls Tribune	Great Falls
2012	Sandra Zoldowski	Billings
2011	Nick Ehli & Bozeman Chronicle Staff	Bozeman
2009	Great Falls Tribune	Great Falls
2008	Wendt	Great Falls
2007	Liberty County Times	Chester
2006 (2)	Havre Daily News	Havre
2006	KRTV	Great Falls
2005	KSEN Radio	Shelby
2004	Clear Channel Radio	Billings
2003	Bruce Callies/Bresnan	Helena
2002	Becky Shay, Billings Gazette	Billings
2001	Steve Keller & Brian Ross	Great Falls
2000	Billings Gazette/Bob Gibson	Billings
1999	Montana Public Television	Bozeman
1998	Western Breeze & Pioneer Press	Cut Bank
1998	TCI Media Services	Statewide Winner
1997	Bozeman Daily Chronicle	Bozeman
1996	KTVQ	Billings
1995	Montana Standard	Butte
1995	Missoulian	Missoula
1995	KIKC Radio	Forsyth
1994	Miles City Star	Miles City
1994	KMON Radio	Great Falls
1994	Great Falls Tribune	Great Falls
1993	TCI Cablevision	Statewide Winner
1993	North Country Media	Great Falls
1993	Great Falls Tribune	Great Falls

OUTSTANDING SUPPORT BY BUSINESS OR CORPORATION

Year	Recipient	City
2017	Montana Sub Shop	Great Falls
2016	Spiker Communications	Missoula
2015	MacKenzie River Pizza	Statewide
2014	Napa Auto Parts	Billings
2013	First Interstate Bank	Statewide
2012	NorthWestern Energy	Statewide
2009	Showdown Ski Area	Monarch
2009	Murdoch's Ranch and Home Supply	Statewide
2008	Edelen Photography	Butte
2007	N.E.W. Customer Service	Great Falls
2006	Pizza Huts	Great Falls
2005	the Missoulian	Missoula
2005	Carquest	Statewide
2004	Town Pump	Statewide
2004	Karl Tyler Chevrolet	Missoula
2003	Century Gaming	Missoula
2003	Howard's Pizza	Great Falls
2002	Shopko	Statewide
2002	Sunset Lanes	Billings
2002	Fireside Lanes	Billings
2002	Center Lanes	Billings
2001	Lost Trail Powder Mtn Ski Area	Darby
2001	AT&T Broadband	Helena
2000	The Big Mountain – Local Winner	Whitefish
2000	First Interstate BancSystem	Statewide
1999	Tire Rama	Billings
1999	Carquest Distribution Center	Billings
1998	Powerhouse Technologies	
1997	Summit	Kalispell
1997	Norwest Banks	Billings
1996	Universal Athletics	Bozeman
1995	SteinHaus	Great Falls
1995	Recreation Lanes	Miles City
1995	Photo Plus	Great Falls

1995	Montana Power	Butte
1995	McDonalds	
1995	Howard's Pizza	
1995	Flathead Industries	Kalispell
1995	Earth and Wood	Stevensville
1995	County Market	
1994	U.S.West	Great Falls
1994	TCI Cablevision	
1994	Taco Time	Belgrade
1994	Supervalu Ryan's Division	Billings
1994	Horizon Air	
1994	Coca Cola	Great Falls
1994	City Motors	Great Falls
1994	Burlington Resources Foundation	
1993	Sidney county Market	Sidney
1993	Montana Power	Butte
1993	Meridian Oil	
1993	McDonald's	Great Falls
1993	Leo's IGA	Jodel Petroni
1993	Helena Safeway	Helena
1993	First Interstate Bank	Kalispell
1993	Dennis Washington Foundation	

MISC

SPORTS PERSONALITY

Year	Recipient	City
1993	Todd Foster	Great Falls

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Year	Recipient	City
2009	Sharon Hanni	Butte

PRESIDENT'S KEYSTONE AWARD

Year	Recipient	City
2009	Sharon Hani	Butte
2006	Bresnan Communications	
2004	Tricia McKenna	
1999	Laurie Shadoan	

PEAK PERFORMANCE AWARD

Year	Recipient	City
1999	Michelle Cattin	Bozeman