

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Countdown to 2026 Special Olympics USA Games: Team Montana Training to Compete!

MONTANA, March 16, 2026 – *34 Special Olympics Montana athletes and Unified partners are training for a competition like no other: the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games in Minnesota.*

Held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games will include over 3,000 athletes and Unified* partners with 1,500 coaches representing all 50 states. The event will include 16 Special Olympics team and individual sports, both traditional and Unified*.

Special Olympics Montana will send 34 athletes and Unified partners to compete in Unified* Basketball, Aquatics (Swimming), Athletics (Track & Field), Bocce, Bowling, Golf, and Gymnastics. Additionally, a Unified* pair (one athlete and one Unified partner) will attend as part of the Youth Leadership Experience.

Team Montana is comprised of athletes from 18 cities, corner to corner of the state!
Note: The full roster for Team Montana is available here:

[**TEAM MONTANA BY CITY**](#)

[**TEAM MONTANA BY SPORT**](#)

“Team Montana is training hard and is excited to show the world what they’re made of next year,” said Brittani Bush, VP Sports, Special Olympics Montana. “These athletes inspire all of us to lead with heart, joy, and perseverance – and we’re inviting everyone in Montana to join us in cheering them on every step of the way.”

Team Montana will be supported by 18 coaches and support staff at the USA Games.

The Games are scheduled to take place from June 20-26, 2026, at the prestigious University of Minnesota, the official host venue. In addition to the university, the event will unfold across other premier locations, including the National Sports Center in Blaine. The Games will also include Opening and Closing Ceremonies, Law Enforcement Torch Run, Healthy Athletes Experience, and a Fan Zone.

**Unified competition is an inclusive program that combines individuals with intellectual disabilities (Athletes) and individuals without disabilities (Partners) on the same team for training and competition.*

For members of the media seeking interviews with athletes or Unified Partners please get in touch with Holly Netz, Director of Communications, Special Olympics Montana: hnetz@somt.org or 406-315-4200 or Brittani Bush, VP Sports, Special Olympics Montana, bbush@somt.org.

Visit somt.org for up-to-date information on Team Montana.

About Special Olympics USA Games

The 2026 Special Olympics USA Games – scheduled for June 20-26, 2026, across Minnesota's Twin Cities with sports competitions at the University of Minnesota and the National Sports Center in Blaine – is a national celebration of inclusivity, changing perceptions, and the ability of the human spirit rising above limitations. The USA Games, with co-presenting partners Jersey Mike's Subs and United Healthcare, will be one of the biggest U.S. sporting events of the year, drawing tens of thousands of fans to celebrate the ability of over 3,000 incredible athletes from all 50 states as they compete in 16 Olympic-type team and individual sports. As a state with a long history of championing inclusion, the USA Games now bring an unrivaled opportunity to Minnesota to spark new energy around the Special Olympics movement and create a lasting legacy of positive change.

About Special Olympics Montana

Special Olympics Montana (SOMT) is a state-wide non-profit organization that provides year-round sports training, athletic competition, and health-related programming for individuals with intellectual disabilities. SOMT changes lives through the power of sport by encouraging and empowering people with intellectual disabilities, promoting acceptance for all, and fostering communities of understanding and respect.

SOMT is an athlete-centered, family-based, volunteer-driven and sponsor-supported movement with over 5,000 athletes registered in 171 programs from 132 Montana communities. Over 6,800 Montana volunteers help organize and host local, area, and state-level competitions.

SOMT is accredited by Special Olympics, Inc. and headquartered in Great Falls, MT. To learn more, visit www.somt.org; call [1-406-216-5327](tel:1-406-216-5327); or email info@somt.org. Engage with us on Facebook: [specialolympicsmontana](https://www.facebook.com/specialolympicsmontana); YouTube: [SpecialOlympicsMT](https://www.youtube.com/SpecialOlympicsMT) and Instagram [so_montana](https://www.instagram.com/so_montana).

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