



# 2026 STATE SUMMER GAMES FACT SHEET



[go.somt.org/ssg2026](http://go.somt.org/ssg2026)

## ABOUT THE GAMES

The **2026 State Summer Games** will be held in Billings, MT, **May 13-15, 2025**. These games rotate every three years. This is the final year in Billings until 2036.

## ABOUT SPECIAL OLYMPICS MONTANA

SOMT is an athlete-centered, family-based, volunteer-driven, and sponsor-supported movement with over **5,000 athletes** registered **statewide** in 171 programs from 132 Montana communities. Over **6,800 Montana volunteers** help organize and host local, area, and state-level competitions. **Athletes train and compete year-round** in 13 Olympic-style sports. In 1970, the first-ever Montana State Summer Games were held in Billings, MT with approximately 400 athletes. SOMT is accredited by Special Olympics, Inc. and is headquartered in Great Falls, Montana.

## OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

## STATE SUMMER GAMES SUPPORT

Over **50 local and state sponsors** have come together to make these games a reality. Over 30 local community leaders have spent all year working with SOMT staff to plan these games.

Locations across Billings will be used for competition and special events, including: Rocky Mountain College, MSUB, Magic City Gymnastics, Metra Park, Lockwood HS and Par 3 Golf Course.

## SUMMER GAMES COMPETITION

### Age range

- 8yo and older

### Participant Numbers:

- Communities attending: 50+
- Athletes & Unified Partners: 1,200+
- Coaches & Team Volunteers: 400+

### Sports/Competitions:

- **Athletics**
  - Traditional and Unified running/walking individual & relay
  - throws & jumps
- **Cycling**
  - sprints and road races
- **Swimming**
- **Gymnastics**
- **Bocce**
- **Soccer**
  - 5 v 5 traditional & Unified
  - skills competitions
- **Golf**
  - singles 9 or 18 holes
  - skills competitions

## SPECIAL EVENTS

Opening Ceremony will be held at First Interstate Arena (MetraPark) on May 13th at 6:30pm. Area schools and talent will be participating, and the arrival of the Flame of Hope is incredible to witness. The public is encouraged to attend.

*Please visit [www.somt.org](http://www.somt.org) for a full event schedule. All competitions are open to the public.*

## MEDIA CONTACT

Please direct questions to:

**Holly Netz**

**Marketing & Communications Sr. Director**

**[hnetz@somt.org](mailto:hnetz@somt.org)**

**406-315-4200**

**A special thank you to our Premier Sponsors:**



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# 2025 STATE SUMMER GAMES FACT SHEET

**The Games rotate every three years around the state** - Great Falls, Missoula, Bozeman and Billings. This is the second year in Billings.

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Over 1,000 athletes and their families will attend the games. Competition is busy, but these teams will be eating out, shopping, and more while they are in the city. **Conservative estimated economic impact to the City of Billings is approximately \$500k.**

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**We will need over 1,000 volunteers for the games.** Volunteers with all skills are needed, from set-up and tear-down to scorekeepers, marshals, athlete escorts, lunch distribution, and photographers. For most positions, no prior experience is needed; we need people to show up willing to learn and have fun. This is a great opportunity for those working at companies that credit volunteer hours or are seeking a way to give to the community.

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## Verbiage:

It is common to hear people refer to Special Olympics in these terms. Below are the high points in correct terminology. We appreciate your help with dispelling these common errors.

**The Special Olympics of Montana** - No "the" or "of" - It's just **Special Olympics Montana**

**Individuals are "athletes,"** not **"Special Olympians\*" or "kids"**

**\*Important to note:** Special Olympics does not have licensing to use the word "Olympians"; **that word is exclusive to the Olympics.**

Individuals have **"intellectual and developmental disabilities,"** (sometimes referred to as IDD) we **do not use "special needs" or refer to them as "disabled."**

Traditional versus Unified sports/teams: **Traditional** are teams made up entirely of athletes with intellectual disabilities. **Unified teams** are made up of athletes and individuals without intellectual abilities, playing side by side.



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