

June 2026 Green List News

From Sherry Rudolph <srudolph@somt.org>

Date Mon 6/22/2026 2:22 PM

To Sherry Rudolph <srudolph@somt.org>

Green List & Field News.



FROM THE FRONT OFFICE

COE

The COE Athlete Portal will open soon! Athletes planning to participate in fall basketball practices must be registered in COE. Statewide virtual training sessions on Microsoft Teams, led by the dedicated SOMT COE staff, will be held in June at **5:30 p.m.**

- June 1st-LPCs, Coaches & Team Volunteers - [login HERE - Volunteer](#)
- June 2nd-Parents/Guardians - [login HERE - ParentGuardian](#)
- June 3rd-Athletes – [login HERE - Athlete](#)
 - Please note that ALL ATHLETES competing in State Basketball must complete registration through the COE portal prior to their first practice, regardless of how recently paperwork was submitted.
 - Athletes still may not need a physical, but they do need to register through the portal. Please note, however, that athletes may need to provide a physical based on responses provided during the registration process. If an athlete has a physical exam that is less than 6 months old, it **may be** considered sufficient.

- Please do not wait to register athletes who are not participating in basketball. Enhanced support is available now, and early registration is strongly encouraged.

For these trainings, the Teams app downloaded onto your device will provide optimal viewing and Chat functions (we will be using the Chat and muting participants for portions of the training).

Given that summer is almost upon us, we appreciate your help in sharing this communication with your team, families, and friends who are affected.

Once trainings are complete, athletes or their parents/guardians are welcome to get started by creating a profile and following the prompts. Resources will be posted on the SOMT website, and we will provide a list of staff members you can call for assistance.

SPORTS

Please add the Sports Departments' email addresses to your *safe sender* list in your email. We have gotten reports of our emails being sent to the junk folder and want to make sure everyone is getting our communications.

Brittani – bbush@somt.org

Bill – bpolk@somt.org

Richie – rwhitney@somt.org

2026 STATE SUMMER GAMES | May 13-15

CONGRATULATIONS to everyone who attended and competed in the 2026 State Summer Games!

THANK YOU to athletes, LPC's, coaches, team volunteers, Unified partners, and everyone who worked tirelessly over the last few months to make the event a success!

The Sports Department is working on entering results, and they will be posted on the website soon. Thank you for your patience as we wrap up State Summer Games clean-up and continue preparations for the upcoming Special Olympics USA Games.

LPC's, please take a moment to complete the 2026 State Summer Games survey and provide feedback on this year's event. Your input is incredibly valuable and helps us continue improving the Games each year. LPC's listed on each team's final registration who attended the State Summer Games will receive the survey via email.

UPCOMING DATES FOR BUTTE AND MISSOULA

State Basketball (Tentative) - Butte, MT

- 2026: November 12-14
- 2027: November 11-13

- 2028: November 9-11

State Summer Games (Tentative) - Missoula, MT

- 2027: May 19-21
- 2028: May 17-19
- 2029: May 16-18

*Please note: Our team is working diligently to finalize and confirm these dates, but **they remain tentative at this time**. If you secure hotel room blocks, please be aware that reservations may need to be adjusted if changes occur. We will communicate updates as soon as possible.*

GYMNASTICS

Huge shout-out to Magic City Gymnastics for an outstanding event and Tammy Grimm out of Billings for a wonderful ceremony! Tammy honored coaches and competing gymnasts with gifts and a farewell ceremony following the competition.

Thank you for your continued dedication to the athlete experience and for validating the hard work of everyone involved, not only this year but over the many years of gymnastics programming across the state.

Following a two-year review process that began after the 2024 State Summer Games, gymnastics participation numbers have continued to decline each year rather than increase as we had hoped. As a result, gymnastics will no longer be offered at the State Summer Games at this time.

This does not mean the sport cannot return to state-level competition offerings in the future. ***The state office strongly encourages local programs and areas to continue offering gymnastics opportunities and competitions at Area Spring Games or in standalone events*** to encourage an increase in participation and allow our current gymnasts to continue to train and compete. Our hope is that participation numbers will grow, allowing gymnastics to return to the State Summer Games. To help make that possible, we need your support! ***If you know of any gym owners, coaches, or gymnastics facilities that may be interested*** in starting a program, providing practice space, or sharing expertise within their local community, please let the sports team know.

2026 SPECIAL OLYMPICS USA GAMES

As we head into June, ***Team Montana is entering the final stages of preparation for the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games!*** Team Montana's delegation includes athletes, Unified partners, coaches, staff, and medical staff who will represent Montana on the National stage. The sports our athletes and Unified partners will compete in include athletics, aquatics, basketball, bocce, bowling, golf, and gymnastics.

The 2026 Special Olympics USA Games will take place June 20th-26th, with Team Montana traveling to the Games on June 19th and returning to Montana on June 27th. Prior to departure, the delegation will participate in a Team Montana Send-Off Event on

June 18th. This is a planned delegation event for invited guests and participants to honor the team and send them off in style. We encourage you to check the SOMT website for viewing opportunities and daily updates of Team Montana's journey during the Games.

The Special Olympics USA Games will bring together thousands of athletes from across the country to compete, celebrate inclusion, and showcase the power of Special Olympics. Over the next several weeks, our delegation will be focused on training, team meetings, travel preparation, family programming, send-off planning, and final Games logistics.

As a result, ***staff involved with USA Games preparation and travel may have delayed response times and limited availability for new projects or non-urgent requests through early July.*** We appreciate your patience, flexibility, and support during this exciting and busy time for Special Olympics Montana and Team Montana.

If there are requests, projects, or conversations unrelated to USA Games preparation that can wait until after the Games, we would greatly appreciate the opportunity to revisit them in July. ***We will continue to do our best to support urgent needs as they arise.***

We also want to take a moment to sincerely thank everyone who has helped Team Montana reach this point. From coaches supporting athletes at the local level, to LPCs assisting with paperwork and preparation, to families, volunteers, donors, and community members who have supported the delegation financially and through fundraising efforts, this experience would not be possible without your support, time, and dedication. We are grateful!

Again, thank you for all you do to support your athletes and programs! ***We encourage everyone to follow along, cheer on Team Montana, and celebrate our delegates throughout their USA Games journey.*** Additional updates, delegation information, and ways to follow along will be shared throughout the coming weeks.

Team Montana is excited to represent Montana at the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games!

[2026 Special Olympics USA Games](#)

OUTREACH

New LPC Training Dates

- Fall 2026 Local Program Coordinator Training Dates!
- A new LPC/team or person taking over the LPC position for a team must complete the training on one of these dates in order to participate in local or state basketball practices or events.
 - Tuesday, August 4, 12 pm
 - Monday, August 17, 5:15 pm
 - Wednesday, August 19, 3 pm
 - Monday, August 24 12 pm
- Register for the 1-hour Training [HERE](#)

HEALTH

UPCOMING HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES

NEW SO Fitness App Challenge, June 15th! [\(see flyer\)](#)

Email Mallory Frank to sign up, mfrank@somt.org

NEW Fit 5 at Orangetheory in Billings [\(see flyer\)](#)

Tuesdays 1-2pm starting June 2nd

For athletes, unified partners, mentors, and caregivers!

To sign up, email Alexis ajuras@somt.org

Adaptive Dance & Arts Summer Camp @ Cohesion Dance Center in Helena

Explore movement & creativity in a fun supported space! [\(see flyer\)](#)

June 15-18, 1-3pm

To register use QR code or call 406-422-0830

MARCOMM

Tune in for Team MT USA Games updates, news & viewing opportunities:

- Bookmark this page on the SOMT website to check-in for daily updates June 21st - 27th: [Special Olympics Montana | USA Games](#)
- Follow us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/specialolympicsmontana>
- And on Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/so_montana/
- YouTube: SpecialOlympics Montana:
<https://youtube.com/@specialolympicsmt?si=VmeoWUilyFcWXhTX>

We can't wait to share the journey with you!

Got Questions? We've Got Answers:

Reminder: the [Team & Area Resources page on the website](#) includes a Brand Guide for everything from collateral to communications to uniform regulations. This page is evolving as we receive your feedback!

This summer, we will be adding more resources for Areas, Teams, and Volunteers.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

How can we help you? Canva templates? Microsoft templates? Ready-to-print collateral? Share your needs with us so we can help you spend less time making "stuff" and more time doing the things that feed your soul.

Email: hnetz@somt.org with any suggestions!

RAFFLE

Both MTN Chevy Raffle and Plunge Payouts will take place in June.

Please remember to submit your Fundraising Approval Forms before you hold any area fundraisers.

LETR

🎓 Dave Headley Memorial Scholarship — OPEN NOW!

The **Dave Headley Memorial Scholarship** supports active and emerging Special Olympics Montana teams while honoring Dave Hedley's lasting impact on the Law Enforcement Torch Run movement. Scholarship funds are designed to help teams grow participation, strengthen involvement, and support athlete opportunities across Montana.

📌 Scholarship Details:

- Up to **2 teams selected annually**
- Scholarship awards of **\$250 per team**
- The LETR Executive Committee may vote to award up to **4 teams**
- Previous recipients must wait **2 years** before reapplying

📄 Application Consideration Includes:

- Participation in LETR events and fundraisers
- Participation in SOMT events and programs
- Demonstrated financial need
- A reference from a local law enforcement officer
- If no reference is provided, teams must include an explanation

Application Link: <https://go.somt.org/26DaveHedleyApp>

📅 Application Deadline: June 30, 2026

📍🚗 Texas Roadhouse Tip-A-Cop — June 25, 2026

Mark your calendars! Our statewide **Texas Roadhouse Tip-A-Cop** event coming on **June 25** in:

- Billings
- Bozeman

- Great Falls
- Missoula

Please bookmark our COE webpage [Special Olympics Montana | Center of Excellence](#)



Sue Hill
GMS Specialist
Special Olympics Montana | Great Falls



- ☎ 406-315-4194
 - @ shill@somt.org
 - PO Box 3507 Great Falls, MT 59403
 - 📍 headquarters: 710 1st Ave N, Great Falls, MT 59401
 - ☎ Fax: 406.315.5820
 - 🌐 www.somt.org
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