



Special Olympics
Missouri

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2009 State Summer Games Leave a Mark

The Special Olympics Missouri State Summer Games will bring more than 1,200 athletes from across the state to Springfield. This state-level event takes place May 28-30, on the Missouri State University and Drury University campuses.

The State Summer Games kick off on Thursday, May 28, with Opening Ceremonies at Plaster Sports Complex at 7:30 p.m. Opening Ceremonies will feature the parade of athletes, the culmination of the statewide Law Enforcement Torch Run®, the lighting of the Flame of Hope, the traditional declaration, "Let the games begin!" and special live performances by Sons of the Silver Dollar and Yakov Smirnoff. The public is encouraged to attend this free event.

Competition events will take place at four venues: Plaster Sports Complex, Plaster Student Union, the Practice Band Field and Drury University's Breech Pool. Five summer sports are featured: Athletics (track and field), Aquatics, Powerlifting, Soccer and Bocce. Competition begins Thursday, May 28, and runs through Saturday, May 30. Please visit www.somo.org/fan to make a donation, register to volunteer, and for more information. The public is encouraged to attend all events. We're on a mission to put "fans in the stands" to cheer for our athletes. Venues and times are as follows:

Soccer – Practice Band Field

May 28 – 10 am – 4 pm

Athletics (Track & Field) – Plaster Sports Complex

May 29 – 7:15 am – 4 pm

May 30 – 7:30 am – 1 pm

Bocce – Plaster Sports Complex

May 29 – 8 am – 4 pm

Aquatics – Drury University Breech Pool

May 29 – 9 am – 2 pm

Powerlifting – Plaster Student Union

May 29 – 9 am – 3 pm

Low Motor / Wheelchair Events – Plaster Sports Complex

May 30 – 8:15 am – 12 pm

Special Olympics is dedicated to improving the overall health and fitness of our athletes, not only through organized sports training and competition but by also providing free health screenings through the Healthy Athletes program. All of these screenings are provided for SOMO athletes free of charge.

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The Healthy Athlete Park will be May 29 from 11 am – 4 pm on Kings Street and will include: **Special Smiles Dental Clinic, Healthy Hearing and Health Promotion.**

Athletes will spend some down time Friday afternoon with crafts and small stage performances. Friday evening the athletes will celebrate their victories at the dance and spend time with friends at Bingo.

The State Summer Games would not be possible without the generous contributions of our sponsors. Thank you to our year-round partners Knights of Columbus and Shop 'n Save. Our presenting sponsors are CoxHealth, Southwest Dairy Farmers, Springfield News-Leader, KSPR and Clear Channel Radio. Our gold level sponsor is Hobbytime Motorsports. Our silver level sponsors are The Whitlock Company and Fabick Power Systems. Our bronze level sponsors are the Springfield Sports Commission, the Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau, Standing Room Only, Great Southern Bank and Associated Electric Cooperative Inc.

For more information about the 2009 State Summer Games, please contact Mandi Mueller at 1-800-846-2682 or email mueller@somo.org. Visit the Special Olympics Missouri website at www.somo.org.

Special Olympics Missouri is a year-round program of sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with mental disabilities. More than 15,000 athletes participate in 21 Olympic-type sports throughout the state. Special Olympics provides people with mental disabilities continuing opportunities to develop fitness, demonstrate courage and experience joy as they participate in the sharing of gifts and friendship with other athletes, their families and the community. Visit our website at www.somo.org.

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