



USA NATIONAL GAMES • NEBRASKA



**Special Olympics**

Nebraska

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## T-MINUS 100-DAYS AND COUNTING UNTIL THE 2010 SPECIAL OLYMPICS USA NATIONAL GAMES

*220 athletes from Nebraska qualify to compete in 12 sports during National Games*

**OMAHA, Neb. - April 9, 2010-** Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup> marked the 100-day countdown until 220 athletes from Nebraska will head to Lincoln to compete in the 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games. These athletes will be among 3,000 others from 48 states participating in the USA National Games, July 18-23. The Games will mark a milestone as the largest event in the history of the state of Nebraska.

The week-long event will feature 13 Olympic-style competitions and other non-competitive special events such as the Cessna Citation Special Olympics Airlift, where donated private and corporate jets fly athletes from around the country to the Games; the Final Leg of the Law Enforcement Torch Run™ that will symbolize the start of the competition; Special Olympics Town, a designated area of family fun and Healthy Athletes, a place where the athletes can get vital health screenings. A national youth and education summit will also be held in conjunction with the Games as these young leaders rally around making change for the better of the Special Olympics movement, promoting unity and acceptance of those with intellectual disabilities.

Nebraska's delegation will enjoy all of these festivities while also competing in aquatics, basketball, bocce, bowling, flag football, golf, power lifting, soccer, softball, tennis, track & field and volleyball. Additionally, this year's Games will continue to foster inclusion by showcasing Special Olympics Unified Sports®, where Special Olympics athletes together with partners without intellectual disabilities share the same field of play. There will be a Unified flag football showcase and 10 Unified soccer teams will compete.

“Special Olympics Nebraska is excited to have such a large delegation making up Team Nebraska for the USA National Games” said Special Olympics Nebraska Executive Director Carolyn Chamberlin. “Nebraska is going to be well represented at Nationals and I know our athletes and coaches are going to make Special Olympics Nebraska, our supporters and volunteers and the entire state very proud.”

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The host of the Games, Lincoln, Nebraska, held a Community Summit on Thursday to celebrate 100 days until the start of the Games. The summit informed and educated the community about Special Olympics and the USA National Games. The event also recognized sponsors, partners, community leaders, local businesses and citizens. USA National Games CEO, Charles Cooper, and Special Olympics Massachusetts CEO, Robert Johnson spoke at the event.

“We are thrilled to mark 100 Days until the start of the USA National Games,” said 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games President & CEO Charles Cooper. “Special Olympics could not be happier to have Lincoln as the host site for the event. The outpouring of community support has exceeded our expectations and the community is poised and ready to welcome Special Olympics athletes from around the country. Using sports as the catalyst, the USA National Games provides the opportunity to educate and inform about the true abilities and achievements of people with intellectual disabilities.”

#### **About the Special Olympics Nebraska**

Special Olympics Nebraska serves 4,000 individuals ages 8 and older in across the state. Its 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 friendships with their families, and other Special Olympics athletes and the community. [www.sone.org](http://www.sone.org).

#### **About the 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games**

The 2010 Special Olympics USA National Games in Lincoln, Nebraska will showcase and celebrate the Special Olympics movement and athletes from across the United States, while illustrating the power of sports to educate and inform about the true abilities and achievements of people with intellectual disabilities. From July 18-23, 2010, nearly 3,000 athletes will compete in 13 Olympic-style sports, with the support of 1,000 coaches, 8,000 volunteers and an estimated 15,000 family and friends. In addition to sports, the USA National Games will offer various programs in health, wellness and education. To learn more, volunteer or register as a member of the media, please visit [www.2010specialolympics.org](http://www.2010specialolympics.org).

#### **About Special Olympics**

Special Olympics is an international organization that changes lives by encouraging and empowering people with intellectual disabilities, promoting acceptance for all, and fostering communities of understanding and respect worldwide. Founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the Special Olympics movement has grown from a few hundred athletes to more than 3.3 million athletes in over 170 countries in all regions of the world, providing year-round sports training, athletic competition and other related programs. Special Olympics now takes place every day, changing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities in places like China and from regions like the Middle East to the community playgrounds and ball fields in every small neighborhood's backyard. Special Olympics provides people with intellectual disabilities continuing opportunities to realize their potential, develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage and experience joy and friendship. Visit Special Olympics at [www.specialolympics.org](http://www.specialolympics.org).

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