

For Immediate Release

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Special Olympics Montana Invites Volunteers to Help Organize & Host 2012-14 State Summer Games in Billings

(Billings, MT, April 14, 2011) Victory has one voice and the Yellowstone Valley is invited to be part of it when the 2012-14 Special Olympics Montana State Summer Games come to Billings. On a three-year cycle, the first Games will be May 15-18, 2012.

1,000 athletes from 85 programs across the state will gather to compete in thirteen Olympic-type sports (bowling, athletics, cycling, powerlifting, soccer, aquatics, equestrian, gymnastics, golf, bocce, kayaking, motor activities training program and Unified triathlon) at multiple venues across the city. Accompanying the athletes will be more than 500 coaches and thousands of family members and friends.

“Just as athletes with intellectual challenges give their personal best, we invite the best of Yellowstone Valley to help organize and host these Games”, said Special Olympics Montana President/CEO Bob Norbie.

While 1,500 volunteers will be needed to service the Games, Special Olympics is currently recruiting 50 key volunteer leaders to oversee sub-committees responsible for planning and preparation of the Games. These key volunteers will serve on the Games Management Team and meet periodically to oversee organization of venues, competition, special events (i.e. opening and closing ceremonies, athlete barbecue and dine-out night, family and friends dinner, Olympic village, dance and carnival, and wellness park), volunteer recruitment and training, administrative and support functions, marketing, and fundraising.

Norbie said, “As a volunteer-driven movement, we are looking for a core group of volunteer leaders that are eager to share their organization and leadership skills, who inspire others through teamwork, and who are willing to share their circle of influences to help us organize the best Games ever.”

As part of their orientation, Games Management Team leaders will be invited to attend the first day of the 2011 State Summer Games in Bozeman, May 11. Courtesy of Cladis Investment Advisory LLC, a motor coach will transport the Games Management Team to Bozeman to observe and job shadow their counterpart for the entire day while visiting all the venues, attending the VIP Reception with Governor Brian Schweitzer and Opening Ceremonies with 6,000 fans from across the state.

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Norbie said, "The impact of these volunteer-driven Games might best be summarized by Missoula athlete Keough Duffy who said during a previous State Summer Games, "I feel really good about myself". When asked why she said, "Because everyone here treats me the way I want to be."

"The truth be known", said Norbie, "We all want to be treated the way we want to be. In Special Olympics there is one team. We're all on it. So become part of an extraordinary experience that will forever change your life."

For more information about the 2012-14 Special Olympics Montana State Summer Games visit www.somt.org. If interested in serving on the Games Management Team please email info@somt.org or call Bob Norbie at 1-800-242-6876 or 406-216-5327 x110 to learn more about how you might help.
