

For



Immediate Release

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Send-off for Athletes and Coaches headed for 2011 World Games in Athens, Greece

[June 9, 2011 – Great Falls MT] Special Olympics Montana, a 41 year old movement that enables athletes with intellectual disabilities to train for life through sports, is pleased to announce a send-off gathering for 3 delegates representing Montana as members of Team USA.

Special Olympics Montana and members of the Yellowstone Valley Area Management Team will host a send-off at Optimum (formerly Bresnan Communications) on June 17th at 6PM. The gathering will take place at 1860 Monad Road, Billings, MT. The public is welcome to attend and cheer on Montana's athletes and coaches.

The Special Olympics World Summer will begin in Athens, Greece on June 25 and close on July 4, 2011

Athletes attending the celebration as members of Team USA will be track & field competitor Anton Veverka (Richey, MT), a pentathlon athlete; and freestyle swimmer Zach Smith (Billings, MT). Team USA Powerlifting coach attending the event is Nicole Knight (Billings, MT).

Other Team USA delegates from Montana are track and field athlete Measha Porter (Stevensville, MT), and Joe Ouert (Great Falls, MT), a track and field coach. They depart for Athens from Missoula, and will enjoy a similar celebration at the Missoula Family YMCA on June 17.

Special Olympics World Games are held every two years in various locations globally, alternating between World Summer and World Winter Games. At the 2011 World Summer Games in Athens, 7500 athletes, 2500 coaches, 25,000 volunteers, 3000 event officials, 40,000 Special Olympics families and hundreds of thousands of fans will be in attendance!

More information and athlete and coach profiles can be obtained by visiting, <http://www.specialolympicsteamusa.org/2011/>, <http://www.athens2011.org/en/index.asp>, or by contacting Nolan Taylor at the above address.