



Special Olympics
Montana

For Immediate Release

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**Special Olympics Montana State Basketball Tournament
Comes to the Electric City**

Great Falls, Montana (September 26, 2011)

Special Olympics Montana, a 41 year old movement that enables children and adults with intellectual disabilities to train for life through sports, along with premier sponsor Town Pump Inc., is pleased to announce that the 2011 State Basketball Tournament is coming to Great Falls November 3-5. The State Basketball Tournament will be held in Great Falls for three consecutive years in November 2011-2013.

Prior to coming to Great Falls, the Tournament was held in Butte in 2002-2004 and 2008-2010. Helena was the host city in 2005-2007. The Tournament has grown in size each year. Expected in Great Falls this November are nearly 750 athletes and 180 coaches comprising 75 + teams from over 25 communities across Montana. Working closely with the Great Falls Public Schools, the University of Great Falls and the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind, the Tournament will blanket Great Falls with over 150 team competitions in three days. In addition to the team competitions, nearly 60 athletes are expected to take part in Individual Skills competition.

Special events such as Opening and Closing Ceremonies, the Sports Experience at UGF, Athlete Victory Banquet, the Healthy Athletes Program, Dance/Carnival, and the Families and Friends Dinner will create memorable experiences to celebrate life through sports and create a world of acceptance, respect, and inclusion for people of all abilities.

As an athlete-centered, family-based and volunteer driven organization, Special Olympics Montana relies almost exclusively on the support of community volunteers, businesses, and service organizations for leadership, planning and preparation, in-kind and financial gifts.

At this time Special Olympics Montana is actively recruiting volunteers for the tournament. Those interested in volunteering should go to www.somt.org or call the volunteer hotline at 406-564-2071. In addition, businesses or individuals interested in tournament sponsorship opportunities should contact Jim Lawrence, VP Development, at 406-216-5327 or jlawrence@somt.org.

Be a fan.

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