



Special Olympics
Montana

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

Great Falls, Montana (February 2, 2011)

Special Olympics Montana, a 41 year old movement that enables children and adults with intellectual disabilities to train for life through sports, is pleased to announce the State Basketball Tournament is coming to Great Falls November 3-5, 2011. 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 and the University of Great Falls, 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, Athlete Victory Banquet, the Healthy Athletes Program, Dance/Carnival, Families and Friends Dinner and more, will create memorable experiences as we 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 we are actively recruiting key volunteers to serve on the Games management Team and sponsors to help underwrite the cost of the Games. To receive information about volunteer or sponsorship opportunities at the 2011 State Basketball Tournament, please visit our website at: www.somt.org or call Special Olympics Montana at 1.800-242-6876.

Be a fan.

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