



2016 State Basketball Tournament ■ November 10-12, 2016

- **Special Olympics Montana (SOMT) State Basketball Tournament** is returning to Helena, MT November 10th through 12th. Excitement is growing across the Tri-County Area thanks to the support of our premier sponsor, Town Pump, and the leadership provided by the Games Director, Melissa Shannon, Senior Vice President of Strategies 360.
- Nearly **1,200 athletes** (711), **unified teammates** (74) and **coaches/team volunteers** (347) from **40 delegations** representing **23 Montana communities** are expected to compete in more than **180 team competitions** over a two-day period. An additional **500 local residents** will donate their time as volunteers to help organize the event.
- **Tournament games are held in gyms throughout the Capital City.** Athletes are thrilled to have the opportunity to compete in 5-on-5 (unified and traditional), 3-on-3, individual skills, and Motor Activities Training Program events in such a welcoming community.
- Approximately half of Special Olympics Montana competitors are youth, the other half adults. The athletes competing in the State Basketball Tournament **range in age from 8 to 76 years old.**
- In addition to the games, SOMT hosts the following special events during the tournament:
 - The **Opening Ceremony** officially kicks off the tournament and takes place at the Lewis and Clark Fair Grounds on **Thursday, November 10th beginning at 7pm.** The event is highlighted by arrival of the Special Olympics Flame of Hope, escorted by athletes and Law Enforcement Torch Run officers. The Closing Ceremony will take place at the individual gyms/venues.
 - The **Victory Dance and Carnival** is hosted at the Lewis and Clark Fair Grounds on Friday, November 11th from 7:00pm-9:00pm. The event is staged for athletes as a celebratory evening, filled with dancing, music and a high-energy carnival atmosphere.
 - The **Wellness Park**, part of the Special Olympics global Healthy Athletes initiative, presents free health exams and education for Special Olympics athletes. The Wellness Park activities take place on **Friday, November 11th** at the Lewis and Clark Fair Grounds from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. Health professionals volunteer their time to conduct various health exams including Fit Feet, Special Smiles, Funfitness, Healthy Hearing, Health Promotion, and Opening Eyes.
- During the Tournament, **the Helena community will enjoy a significant positive economic impact** on hotels, restaurants, retailers, museums, recreation and more. Thousands of people (teams, volunteers, family members, spectators and friends) will spend at least 2 days in the Capital City.
- **To learn more about Special Olympics Montana** or for information on how you can support the State Basketball Tournament, please visit our website at www.somt.org or call Special Olympics Montana at 1-800-242-6876.
- **Special Olympics Montana** is a 46 year-old movement that enables children and adults with intellectual disabilities to train for life through sports. As an athlete-centered, family-based and volunteer driven organization, Special Olympics Montana relies almost exclusively on the support of community volunteers and businesses for leadership and financial support.