



Special Olympics State Basketball Tournament Returns to Butte

Kick-Off Press Conference, August 16th at 11:00am at the Maroon Activity Center

BUTTE --- The Special Olympics Montana State Basketball Tournament is back for its final year in Butte! After two years of modified skills competitions and localized events, we are excited to announce the return of the statewide in-person competition.

More than 700 athletes, 180 coaches and chaperones, plus hundreds of families and friends from across Montana travel to watch the athletes compete in two days of intense basketball competition. Multiple venues in Butte and Ramsay will host competitions, including 3-on-3, 5-on-5, 5-on-5 Unified, and Individual Skills competitions.

The Butte community was scheduled to host the tournament for the 2019-2022 seasons, but after an excellent 2019 event, the plan had to be adapted to fit the times. The local volunteer Games Management Team is excited to have one more opportunity to show the rest of the state what Butte can do as it hosts this amazing event in November of 2022! In the words of Co-Director Bill McGladdery, "We're going to knock their socks off!" To kick off the tournament's return, the Games Management Team will host a press conference on August 16th, 2022, at 11:00 AM at the Maroon Activity Center.

It takes more than 500 volunteers to put on the State Basketball Tournament. Special Olympics Montana will work with businesses, organizations, and community leaders to recruit these volunteers from the local community. The press conference will include information on how to volunteer during the tournament.

Already, a group of more than 25 volunteers, called the Games Management Team, is working to plan all facets of the tournament from the competition, to providing food and housing for the athletes and their coaches.

Donors and sponsors are crucial to the execution of the tournament. Special Olympics Montana is proud to announce that Town Pump has graciously agreed to support the tournament as the premier sponsor. Other key sponsors identified to date include the Gianforte Family Foundation, Harrington Pepsi, Montana Rib & Chop House, NorthWestern Energy, Dick Anderson Construction and the Butte-Silver Bow TBID with many others cuing up their support.

After the press conference, there will be a meet and greet with local athletes, and the following individuals will be available for interviews:

- Rhonda McCarty, President/CEO of Special Olympics Montana
- Heather Raymond, Special Olympics athlete
- Paul Babb and Bill McGladdery, Tournament Co-Directors



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About Special Olympics Montana:

The mission of Special Olympics Montana is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

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. To learn more about Special Olympics Montana or to receive information about volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, please visit our website at: www.somt.org or call Special Olympics Montana at 1-800-242-6876.

Media outlets are also allowed to share the following video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=muRM4FsHu0g>

For more information, contact:

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