

SPECIAL OLYMPICS MONTANA

STATE SUMMER GAMES 2025

2025 State Summer Games Return to Billings in May

Holly Netz -

Anticipation is mounting statewide for the return of one of Montana’s most inspiring events. The 2025 Special Olympics Montana State Summer Games return to Billings this May and once again promise to be a celebration of competition and inclusion. While the spotlight is on the athletes, the impact of the games extends far beyond the competition, strengthening friendships and bringing communities together.

Special Olympics is more than just sports; it’s a movement that highlights ability, resilience, and the incredible talents of athletes with intellectual disabilities. State Summer Games provide a platform for these individuals to compete, connect, and create lifelong friendships. Beyond medals and accolades, the event is a testament to every athlete’s dedication, strength, and perseverance.

Inclusive Competition

One of the most magical aspects of Special Olympics is its ability to foster an inclusive community spirit. Athletes, families, Unified Partners, volunteers, and spectators from all walks of life, come together to form an atmosphere of unity and acceptance. From the excitement of the opening ceremonies to the final moments of competition, the camaraderie is undeniable, making the games much more than an athletic event.

In 2024, 53 teams from across Montana competed in seven sports: athletics (track and field), bocce, cycling, gymnastics, golf, soccer, and swimming. Nearly 800 athletes, 198 Unified Partners (individuals without intellectual disabilities who compete alongside Special Olympics athletes), 395 coaches, team volunteers, and their family members converged on Billings to take part in the State Summer Games.

The 2025 competition features a component that only comes every four years. The 2026 Special Olympics USA Games will take place June 20th-26th in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Special Olympics Montana has been granted a quota in the following sports



Photo provided by Special Olympics Montana



Photo provided by Special Olympics Montana

offered at the State Summer Games: Athletics (Track & Field), Bocce, Golf, Gymnastics, and Aquatics (Swimming). The 2025 State Summer Games is a qualifying event, where athletes and unified partners across the state will have the opportunity to compete, qualify, and be selected to represent their local programs, Special Olympics Montana, and the state of Montana on the national stage in 2026.

The Road to the Games

Many athletes’ journey to the State Summer Games is marked by months—sometimes years—of hard work and dedication. Coaches, families, and volunteers play crucial roles in supporting and encouraging the athletes along the way. The games serve as a culmination of these efforts, where dreams are realized, and athletes are recognized for their unique strengths and accomplishments.

Each athlete has a story to tell. The State Summer Games provide a platform to share these inspiring narratives—stories of perseverance, overcoming obstacles, and achieving athletic milestones. These stories are powerful reminders of what can be accomplished when individuals are given the opportunity to thrive.

The Power of Community

The success of the State Summer Games relies heavily on the community’s support. More than 50 local and statewide sponsors, as well as 1,000+ event volunteers, play a vital role in ensuring a memorable experience for every athlete. Whether cheering from the sidelines, assisting with logistics, or providing financial support, the community’s contributions make these games possible.

As the State Summer Games approaches, excitement continues to build. This is more than a sporting event—it’s a celebration of courage, determination, and the limitless potential within us all. Let’s get ready to “Make Some Magic” once again to support these incredible athletes, celebrate their achievements, and create lasting memories that extend far beyond the playing field.

What to expect

From May 14-16, 2025, nearly 1,000 athletes, along with their coaches and team volunteers, will gather in Billings for the 2025 State Summer Games! This is the second year the State Summer Games will be held in Billings. This event will feature competitions in the following:

- **Athletics**
Traditional and Unified running/walking

- individual & relay throws & jumps
- **Cycling**
sprints and road races
- **Swimming**
- **Gymnastics**
- **Bocce**
- **Soccer**
5 v 5 traditional & Unified skills competitions
- **Golf**
singles 9 or 18 holes skills competitions
- **MATP** (Motor Activities Training Program)

Events will take place across multiple locations, including Rocky Mountain College, MSUB, Magic City Gymnastics, Metra Park, Lockwood High School, and Par 3 Golf Course.

The Opening Ceremony will be held at Metra Park on Wednesday, May 14, at 6:30 PM—the public is invited and encouraged to attend! Spectators are also welcome at all competitions throughout the event.

Special Events Schedule

- Wednesday, May 14 -**
- Torch Run - 4:00 pm
 - Parade of Athletes - 6:30 pm
 - Opening Ceremonies - 7:00 pm
- Thursday, May 16 -**
- MTN Chevy Raffle - 6:30
 - Closing Ceremonies - 6:30
 - Dance Carnival - 7:00

Please visit www.somt.org for a full event schedule. All competitions are open to the public

About Special Olympics Montana

SOMT is an athlete-centered, family-based, volunteer-driven, and sponsor-supported movement with over **3,800 athletes registered statewide** in 238 programs from 65 Montana communities. **Over 6,500 Montana volunteers help organize and host local, area, and statelevel competitions. Athletes train and compete year-round in 17 Olympic style sports.** In 1970, the first-ever Montana State Summer Games were held in Billings, MT for approximately 400 athletes. SOMT is accredited by Special Olympics, Inc. and is headquartered in Great Falls, Montana.



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ANACONDA

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ANACONDA SMELTER CITY ALLSTARS

Coaches/Volunteers:
Edward Amberg
Sarah Jacklin Amberg
Steve Gonzalez

Nate Lopez
Kohlter Pennell
Doug Torpey
Jan Torpey

Thanks Coaches
& Volunteers

Special Olympics
Montana



**Loren
Anderson-
Gonzalez**

Anaconda
Smelter City
AllStars

Events: Unified Doubles
Bocce, Golf Individual
Skills

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**Preston
Belfiore**

Anaconda
Smelter City
AllStars

Events: Unified Doubles
Bocce, Golf Individual
Skills

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**Amy
Cozby**

Anaconda
Smelter City
AllStars

Events: Unified Doubles
Bocce, Golf Individual
Skills

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**Dillon
Pickering**

Anaconda
Smelter City
AllStars

Events: Unified Doubles
Bocce, Golf Individual
Skills

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**Michael
Torpey**

Anaconda
Smelter City
AllStars

Events: Unified Doubles
Bocce, Golf Individual
Skills

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ANACONDA & BUTTE

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AWARE VIPERS

Coaches/Volunteers:
Kirsten Barclay
Jere Briden
Britta Bryant
Mary Curtis

Beau Garner
Renee Gursky
Whitley Roberts
Cory Sims

Thanks Coaches
& Volunteers



Special Olympics
Montana



**Anaconda and Butte
AWARE Vipers**

David Caldwell, Scott Briden, Casey Fisk, David Venturelli, Noah Walund,
Dallas Napier, Cody Amundson, Lacy Walker, Patrick Schindler, Jay
Arnesmeyer, Stephen Parmenter, Russ Carlsen, Brooke Gervais, Brandon
Tisdale, Jerome Matosich, Wally New Robe, Wayne Marry, John Genta, Jamie
Lundgren, Jeremiah Kelderhouse, Dan Bowen, Dan Ramsey, Alex Fitzpatrick

List of each athletes events were not available by printing.

CHAMPIONS!



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BUTTE

BUTTE EAGLES

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Coaches/Volunteers:
Gary Robbins
Kim Robbins
Julia Zundel

*Thanks Coaches
& Volunteers*

**Special Olympics**
Montana



Tristan Grogan

Butte Eagles

Events: 25m Freestyle,
50m Freestyle

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**Special Olympics**
Montana



Kallie Robbins

Butte Eagles

Events: 50m Breast-
stroke, 400m Freestyle

CHAMPION!

**Special Olympics**
Montana



Tabitha Zundel

Butte Eagles

Events: 50m Freestyle,
50m Backstroke

CHAMPION!



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BSW, INC

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Coaches/Volunteers:
Terri Curran
Shawn Davis
Melissa Dahlen

Shelly Fitzgerald
Margie Hulverson
Kerrin Peck

*Thanks Coaches
& Volunteers*



**Special Olympics**
Montana



BSW, Inc
Mike Connor - 100m Walk & Bocce, **Tavia Broudy** - 100m Walk & Bocce,
Kari Cox - 100m Walk & Bocce, **Lacy Garrison** - Bocce & Softball Throw,
Vincent Hansen - Bocce & Softball Throw, **Bryce Bailey** - Bocce & Softball Throw,
Brenda Sweet - Bocce & Softball Throw, **Gabby Boysza** - Bocce & Softball Throw,
Hedi Panchot - 100m Walk & Bocce, **Nick Zaeske** - 100m Walk & Bocce,
Nick Coldiron - 100m Walk & Bocce, **Brandon Barnett** - 100m Walk & Bocce,
Olivia Nourse - 100m Walk & Bocce, **Markus Royse** - Bocce & Softball Throw

CHAMPIONS!



★

BUTTE

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SILVER BOW DD COUNCIL

Coaches/
Volunteers:
Holli Bennett
Jules Castiglioni
Drake Dennison

Angie Ferry
Mike Hammer
Peggy Harrington
Elizabeth Husbands
Danial Smith

Dave Smith
Tom Stearns
Sheryl Tremis
Eddi Walker

Thanks Coaches
& Volunteers

**Special Olympics**
Montana

**Shelby Amos**
Silver Bow DD Council
Events: 100m Dash, Bocce, Softball Throw

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**Special Olympics**
Montana

**Cal Berryman**
Silver Bow DD Council
Events: 50/100m Dash, Swimming

CHAMPION!

**Special Olympics**
Montana

**Nikki Cherne**
Silver Bow DD Council
Events: 100m Walk, Bocce, Softball Throw

CHAMPION!

**Special Olympics**
Montana

**Joe Gibson**
Silver Bow DD Council
Events: 200m Walk, Bocce, Turbo Jav

CHAMPION!

**Special Olympics**
Montana

**Tony Cloyd**
Silver Bow DD Council
Events: 100m Dash/Relay, Bocce, Turbo Jav

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**Special Olympics**
Montana

**Clyde Dodd**
Silver Bow DD Council
Events: 25m Walk, Bocce, Softball Throw

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**Special Olympics**
Montana

**Cory Eisenbarth**
Silver Bow DD Council
Events: 50m Dash, Bocce, Softball Throw

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**Special Olympics**
Montana

**Austin Ferry**
Silver Bow DD Council
Events: 100/50m Dash, Swimming

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**Special Olympics**
Montana

**Jay Foley**
Silver Bow DD Council
Events: 100m Dash/Relay, Golf Skills, Turbo Jav

CHAMPION!

**Special Olympics**
Montana

**Patrick Geraghty**
Silver Bow DD Council
Events: 100m Dash, Bocce, Softball Throw

CHAMPION!

**Special Olympics**
Montana

**Joe Gibson**
Silver Bow DD Council
Events: 100m Dash/Relay, Golf, Turbo Jav

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**Mandi Griffin**
Silver Bow DD Council
Events: 200m Walk, Bocce, Softball Throw

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Elizabeth Husbands
Danial Smith

Dave Smith
Tom Stearns
Sheryl Tremis
Eddi Walker

Thanks Coaches
& Volunteers



Special Olympics
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Matt Hammer
Silver Bow
DD Council
Events: 100m Dash,
Bocce, Softball Throw

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Special Olympics
Montana



Kristin Johnson
Silver Bow
DD Council
Events: 200m Walk,
Bocce, Softball Throw

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Lisa Johnson
Silver Bow
DD Council
Events: 200m Walk,
Bocce, Swimming

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Special Olympics
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Devin Kraha
Silver Bow
DD Council
Events: 10m Walk,
Softball Throw

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Special Olympics
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Tia Kraha
Silver Bow
DD Council
Events: 100m Dash,
Bocce, Softball Throw

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Special Olympics
Montana



Trista LaCombe
Silver Bow
DD Council
Events: 50/100m Dash,
Swimming

CHAMPION!



Special Olympics
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Beth LaFleur
Silver Bow
DD Council
Events: Bocce,
15m Aquatic Walk

CHAMPION!



Special Olympics
Montana



Albert Lopez
Silver Bow
DD Council
Events: 100m Walk,
Bocce, Softball Throw

CHAMPION!



Special Olympics
Montana



Lori McDougall
Silver Bow
DD Council
Events:
Bocce, Swimming

CHAMPION!



Special Olympics
Montana



Candi Morrison
Silver Bow
DD Council
Events:
400m Walk, Swimming

CHAMPION!



Special Olympics
Montana



Brian Phillips
Silver Bow
DD Council
Events: 100m Dash,
Bocce, Softball Throw

CHAMPION!



Special Olympics
Montana



Heather Raymond
Silver Bow
DD Council
Events:
Bocce, Swimming

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Drake Dennison

Angie Ferry
Mike Hammer
Peggy Harrington
Elizabeth Husbands
Danial Smith

Dave Smith
Tom Stearns
Sheryl Tremis
Eddi Walker

Thanks Coaches
& Volunteers

**Special Olympics**
Montana



Adam Roesch
Silver Bow DD Council
Events: 100m Dash/Relay, Bocce, Sotball Throw

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**Special Olympics**
Montana



Colin Stearns
Silver Bow DD Council
Events: 50m Walk, 15m Aquatic Walk

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**Special Olympics**
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Brock Stoddard
Silver Bow DD Council
Events: 100m Wheelchair Race, Bocce, Softball Throw

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**Special Olympics**
Montana



Mark Taylor
Silver Bow DD Council
Events: 100m Dash, Bocce, Turbo Jav

CHAMPION!

**Special Olympics**
Montana



Ruschelle Tyvand
Silver Bow DD Council
Events: Bocce, Swimming

CHAMPION!

**Special Olympics**
Montana



Tishina Walks
Silver Bow DD Council
Events: 100m Dash, Bocce, Softball Throw

CHAMPION!

**Special Olympics**
Montana



Laura White
Silver Bow DD Council
Events: 30m Wheelchair Slalom, Bocce, Softball Throw

CHAMPION!

**Special Olympics**
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Jeff Williamson
Silver Bow DD Council
Events: 50m Walk, Bocce

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A special
GOOD LUCK
to our
Favorite Special Olympian
RUSHELLE TYVAND



Good Luck to
All Athletes!
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