



SPECIAL OLYMPICS MONTANA STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT 2025

Let’s Suit Up, Helena – 2025 Special Olympics State Basketball Tournament Marks a Bittersweet Send-Off

Holly Netz
Special Olympics
Montana

Helena, Montana, will once again open its arms to athletes from across the state as it hosts the 2025 Special Olympics Montana State Basketball Tournament from November 6-8, 2025. This year’s event will be more than just a weekend of competition; it will also mark the final year Helena hosts the tournament before it moves to Butte for the next three years.

But don’t worry, Helena — we’ll be back in 2029.

The 2025 tournament will welcome over 700 athletes and Unified Partners, supported by 300 coaches and team volunteers, representing more than 100 teams from across Montana. Over the course of three days, these athletes will compete in approximately 200 basketball games held at venues throughout the city. From traditional team play to individual skills events, the tournament offers something for every ability level, providing every athlete a chance to shine.



To make an event of this scale possible, 1,000+ volunteers are needed. From officials and awards coordinators to photographers, venue directors, and medical personnel, the volunteer army behind the scenes helps ensure every game, every hug, and every medal ceremony runs seamlessly. Volunteer opportunities can be found at www.somt.org, and civic or school groups are encouraged to reach out to Brittani Bush, VP of Sports, at bbush@somt.org or 406-315-4216.

This year is especially meaningful as we say “see you later” to Helena, a city that has wrapped us in warmth, hospitality, and enthusiastic support in both 2023 and 2024. From media coverage to volunteer turnout,

Helena has proven itself to be a truly inclusive community. You’ve helped us build something remarkable, and your commitment to making space for every athlete is what makes this event so special.

We are incredibly grateful to the more than 40 local and statewide sponsors who make this event possible. Their support extends far beyond basketball courts, helping fund year-round programming and training opportunities for Special Olympics Montana athletes.

Special Olympics is about more than sport; it’s a celebration of courage, joy, and the power of inclusion. The 2025 tournament will be a testament to that mission, as athletes demonstrate not just skill but heart, leadership, and resilience.

As the final whistle sounds this November, it won’t be goodbye, it’s a promise to return. Thank you, Helena. We’ll see you on the court one last time this fall—and again, in 2029.

Quick Facts:

About this tournament:

- ~ 850+ athletes and Unified Partners
- ~ 120 teams
- ~ 325 coaches and team volunteers
- ~ 200 games played
- ~1,000 local volunteers are needed for the tournament

What is happening:

Types of divisions:

- 5 v 5 (traditional and unified teams)
- 3 v 3 (traditional and unified)
- Individual Skills (compete individually in skills rather than on a team)

Locations:

- Capital High School
- Helena High School



Helena Middle School CR Anderson Central Elementary Bryant Elementary Four Georgians Jim Darcy Elementary East Valley Middle School	9:00am - 3:30pm Team Competition- Awards Competition Venues
About Special Olympics Montana	
Special Olympics Montana (SOMT) is a state-wide non-profit organization that provides year-round sports training, athletic competition, and health-related programming for individuals with intellectual disabilities. SOMT changes lives through the power of sport by encouraging and empowering people with intellectual disabilities, promoting acceptance for all, and fostering communities of understanding and respect.	
SOMT is an athlete-centered, family-based, volunteer driven and sponsor-supported movement with over 3,850 athletes registered in 256 programs from 65 Montana communities. Over 6,000 Montana volunteers help organize and host approximately 95 local, area, and state level competitions each year.	
Schedule of Events:	
Thursday, November 6th 5:00pm - 6:15pm Live Entertainment L&C Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall	
6:15pm - 7:30pm Opening Ceremony L&C Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall	
Friday, November 7 9:00am - 3:30pm Individual Skills Competition Venues	
9:00am - 3:30pm Team Competition Competition Venues	
Saturday, November 8 9:00am - 3:30pm Individual Skills- Awards Competition Venue	



Cover Photos by Nick Bruno, Last Chance Media

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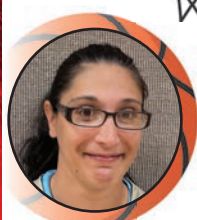
SILVER BOW DD COUNCIL

Jules Castiglioni, Bethani Clairmont, Vina Dugan, Angie Ferry,
Ed Foley, Peggy Harrington, Elizabeth Husbands, Joey Scown,
Tom Stearns, Eddi Walker



**Shelby
Amos**

Team:
SBDDC Tigers



**Angie
Amundson**

Team:
SBDDC Ratz



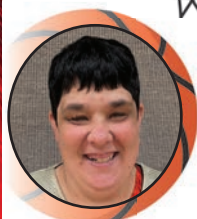
**Amber
Baca**

Team:
SBDDC Ratz



**Cal
Berryman**

Team:
SBDDC Coppers



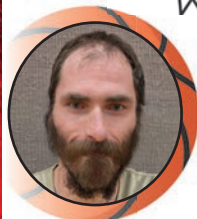
**Nikki
Cherne**

Team:
SBDDC Ratz



**Pam
Cloonan**

Team:
SBDDC Tigers



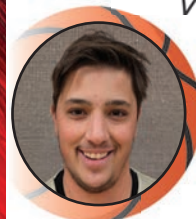
**Cory
Eisenbarth**

Team:
SBDDC Coppers



**Austin
Ferry**

Team:
SBDDC
Blue Jays



**Jalen
Foley**

Team:
SBDDC Ratz



**Patrick
Geraghty**

Team:
SBDDC Tigers



**Joe
Gibson**

Team:
SBDDC Ratz



**Mandi
Griffin**

Team:
SBDDC
Blue Jays



**Johnny
Harrington**

Team:
SBDDC
Blue Jays



**Lisa
Johnson**

Team:
SBDDC Coppers



**Trista
Lacombe**

Team:
SBDDC
Blue Jays



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All Athletes!**

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your best, you can
achieve great things!

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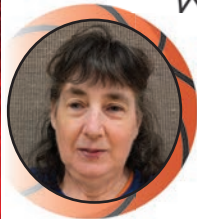
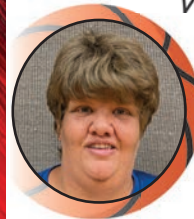


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Ed Foley, Peggy Harrington, Elizabeth Husbands, Joey Scown,
Tom Stearns, Eddi Walker

WINNER!**Beth
LaFleur**Team:
SBDDC
Blue JaysSpecial Olympics
Montana**WINNER!****Albert
Lopez**Team:
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Blue JaysSpecial Olympics
Montana**WINNER!****Lori
McDougall**Team:
SBDDC
Blue JaysSpecial Olympics
Montana**WINNER!****Candi
Morrison**Team:
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Blue JaysSpecial Olympics
Montana**WINNER!****Brian
Phillips**Team:
SBDDC
CoppersSpecial Olympics
Montana**WINNER!****Thad
Powell**Team:
SBDDC
RatzSpecial Olympics
Montana**WINNER!****Heather
Raymond**Team:
SBDDC
TigersSpecial Olympics
Montana**WINNER!****Adam
Roesch**Team:
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Blue JaysSpecial Olympics
Montana**WINNER!****Colin
Stearns**Team:
SBDDC
CoppersSpecial Olympics
Montana**WINNER!****Mark
Taylor**Team:
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RatzSpecial Olympics
Montana**WINNER!****Ruschelle
Tyvand**Team:
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Blue JaysSpecial Olympics
Montana**WINNER!****Tishina
Walks**Team:
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Montana**WINNER!****Jeff
Williamson**Team:
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TYVAND**

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ANACONDA COPPERHEADS

Tana Everett, Kari Hoscheid, Gracey Klanecky, Shauna Lisac,
Kevin McKee, Shelly McKee, Alicia Morley

WINNER!



**Eva
Dougherty**

Team:
Anaconda
Copperheads



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WINNER!



**Peyton
Hood**

Team:
Anaconda
Copperheads



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WINNER!



**Mikhail
Molina**

Team:
Anaconda
Copperheads



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WINNER!



**Nate
Molina**

Team:
Anaconda
Copperheads



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WINNER!



**James
Moylan**

Team:
Anaconda
Copperheads



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**Carson
Peters**

Team:
Anaconda
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ANACONDA SMELTER CITY ALLSTARS

Edward Amberg, Sarah Amberg, Nick Bargeon, Cheryl Dunn,
Steve Gonzalez, Nate Lopez, Kohlter Pennell, Jonathan Rice,
Lindsay Rice, Doug Torpey, Jan Torpey

WINNER!



**Preston
Belfiore**

Team:
Anaconda
Smelter City
AllStars



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WINNER!



**Amy
Cozby**

Team:
Anaconda
Smelter City
AllStars



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WINNER!



**Loren
Gonzalez**

Team:
Anaconda
Smelter City
AllStars



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WINNER!



**Dillon
Pickering**

Team:
Anaconda
Smelter City
AllStars



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WINNER!



**Michael
Torpey**

Team:
Anaconda
Smelter City
AllStars



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All Athletes!*
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**Duggan
Dolan
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BUTTE BULLDOGS

Bob Mehrens and Tom Peterson

WINNER!



**Tayler
Baumbach**

Team:
Butte Bulldogs



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WINNER!



**Tyler
Cunningham**

Team:
Butte Bulldogs



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WINNER!



**Garrett
Fisher**

Team:
Butte Bulldogs



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WINNER!



**Pennelopey
Kaldor**

Team:
Butte Bulldogs



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WINNER!



**Caleb
Kautz**

Team:
Butte Bulldogs



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WINNER!



**Kori
LaDouceur**

Team:
Butte Bulldogs



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WINNER!



**Joseph
Montoya**

Team:
Butte Bulldogs



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Montana

WINNER!



**Miko
Montoya**

Team:
Butte Bulldogs



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WINNER!



**Jorden
Sonnemann**

Team:
Butte Bulldogs



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BUTTE EAGLES

Krystina Mclure, Gary Robbins, Kim Robbins, John Stenson

WINNER!



**Dalen
Dagan**

Team:
Butte Eagles



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WINNER!



**Tristan
Grogan**

Team:
Butte Eagles



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WINNER!



**Kallie
Robbins**

Team:
Butte Eagles



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WINNER!



**Zach
Stenson**

Team:
Butte Eagles



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Gold!

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Make Us Proud!



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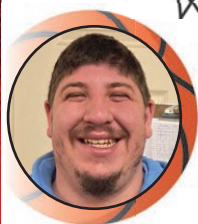
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Terry Curran, Melissa Dahlen, Dakota Davis, Shelly Fitzgerald,
Margie Hulverson, Kerrin Peck

*Athlete not pictured: Markus Royse

WINNER!

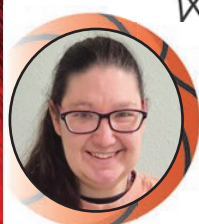


**Bryce
Bailey**

Team:
BSW, Inc



WINNER!



**Gabby
Boysza**

Team:
BSW, Inc



WINNER!



**Tavia
Broudy**

Team:
BSW, Inc



WINNER!



**Brandon
Burnett**

Team:
BSW, Inc



WINNER!



**Arthur
Cloyd**

Team:
BSW, Inc



WINNER!



**Nick
Coldiron**

Team:
BSW, Inc



WINNER!



**Mike
Connor**

Team:
BSW, Inc



WINNER!



**Vincent
Hansen**

Team:
BSW, Inc



WINNER!



**Lance
Nelson**

Team:
BSW, Inc



WINNER!



**Brenda
Sweet**

Team:
BSW, Inc



WINNER!



**Nick
Zaeski**

Team:
BSW, Inc



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DEER LODGE



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MOUNT POWELL STARS

Lisa Hunter, Roy Neubauer, Debbie Persons

WINNER!

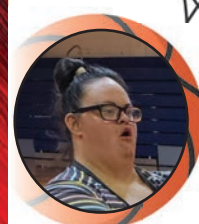


**Aubree
Neubauer**

Team:
Mount Powell
Stars



WINNER!



**Jennifer
Persons**

Team:
Mount Powell
Stars





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