



The Ballots are Open for State Awards and Hall of Fame Nominations

Special Olympics North Dakota is seeking nominations to recognize outstanding athletes, individuals, businesses, and organizations for their work, efforts and support of SOND. The State Awards Banquet will be held on October 22 at the Holiday Inn, Fargo. The banquet will be held in conjunction with the State Leadership Conference. Hall of Fame and other nomination forms can be found on the SOND website at www.specialolympicsnorthdakota.org.

World's Largest Truck Convoy for Special Olympics scheduled for September 24th

The World's Largest Truck Convoy for Special Olympics, a national celebration of the trucking industry to raise awareness and funds for Special Olympics, will be held at SuperValu Distribution Center in Fargo on Saturday, September 24th.

Participating trucks celebrate Special Olympics by decorating their semi's, inviting athletes to ride along during the convoy, and visiting with volunteers, fans, and athletes at a post convoy celebration. Trucking companies also have the opportunity to bid for the Lead Dog, the 1st position at the front of the convoy, at the Lead Dog auction at 10:00 a.m. on the day of the convoy. New this year, on Friday, September 23rd, Jim's Towing in West Fargo will host a Driver Social, Registration, & Truck Light Show. The Truck Convoy is free for spectators to attend, and we encourage all fans of Special Olympics to join us in thanking these companies for their support! **Click this logo to learn more:**



**COMMUNITY
CELEBRATION!**

**Special
Olympics**
North Dakota

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC! PLEASE JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF CELEBRATING
SPECIAL OLYMPICS NORTH DAKOTA**

5:30 - 7:30

|

JOIN US IN JAMESTOWN, BISMARCK,
DEVILS LAKE, AND MINOT

FOLLOW US ON: [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) **QUESTIONS:** 701-746-0331

Join us for an evening of free food, fun, music, and sport! Community Celebrations will be in Jamestown, Bismarck, Devils Lake, and Minot on Tuesday, August 16th from 5:30—7:30! For more information, visit our website at : www.specialolympicsnorthdakota.org

Applebee's Tip-a-Cop to be held September 20-21

Mark your Calendars! On September 20-21 at Applebee's Neighborhood Grill and Bars across North Dakota, local law enforcement personnel and Special Olympics athletes will be working for your tips! It's the 10th Annual Applebee's Tip-a-Cop for Special Olympics North Dakota. Each evening from 5-9 p.m., local law enforcement volunteers will host patrons and help bus tables at Applebee's restaurants across the state, raising awareness and asking for tips to raise funds for Special Olympics! Participating Applebee's restaurants are located in the communities of Bismarck, Devils Lake, Dickinson, Fargo, Grand Forks, Jamestown, Minot, and West Fargo, Williston.

Unified Champion Schools-State Education Leaders Network (ELN)

Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools (new terminology to replace Project Unify) has developed and implemented a National Education Leaders Network (NELN) to provide insights, direction, opportunities and access to national education conversations, initiative, forums and collaborations to advance programs for students with and without intellectual disabilities in policy and practice.

Each US Special Olympics program also has an ELN to assist Special Olympics with insight, direction and access to state education conversations, etc. SOND is pleased to introduce members of SOND's ELN who met for the first time in May:

Les Anderson, ND Student Activities Association
Michael Bradner, Superintendent Mayville Portland CG School District
Dr. Aimee Copas, ND Council of Education Leaders
Patricia Cummings, Director of Student Support Services, Fargo Public Schools
Matt Fetsch, ND High School Activities Association
Susan Gerenz, ND Department of Public Instruction
Jon Godfread, VP of Government Affairs
Ryan Hanson, Principal Devils Lake High School
Lorell Jungling, ND Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association
Chad Oban, ND United
Dr. Jeff Schatz, Superintendent Fargo Public Schools
Dr. Cory Steiner, Superintendent Northern Cass School District
Robin Tschider, ND Department of Instruction
Terry Voiles, Superintendent Surrey Public School

SOND focused strategies with the guidance and direction of the ELN will include efforts to expand the Unified Champion School concept throughout the state which focuses on three main components: Inclusive Sports, Youth Leadership & Advocacy and Whole-School Engagement.

Location Change for 2016 State Soccer/Bocce

The State Soccer/Bocce tournament will be held in Grand Forks on September 17 and 18. There is a change in event location of this 2016 event. The new facility that will play host is South Middle School, located at 1999 47th Ave S. The training season is in full swing and the city of Grand Forks is ready and excited to host the 2016 State Soccer/Bocce tournament.

SPOTLIGHT: Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of North Dakota

Members of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of North Dakota took to the fairway in June to show support for Special Olympics North Dakota. With their annual Communication taking place in Grand Forks, the golf tournament was the perfect place for them to unwind. Apart from being a Title sponsor, quite a few members were on the golf planning committee and even more took part in the tournament. SONDA appreciates this gesture and hopes to grow the relationship in the future.



Upcoming Events

August

- 7 Dickinson Area Banquet
- 16 Community Celebration in Jamestown, Devils Lake, & Bismarck
- 20 Fun Run and Community Celebration in Minot
- 21 District IV Soccer/Bocce Tournament in Bismarck
- 28 District III Soccer/Bocce Tournament in Fargo

September

- 17-18 State Soccer/Bocce Tournament in Grand Forks
- 20-21 Applebee's Tip A Cop Promotion – Statewide
- 24 Law Enforcement Torch Run Truck Convoy in Fargo

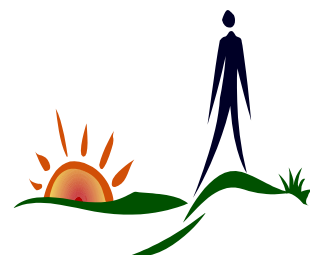
October

- 5 Dancing For Special Stars in Minot
- 22 State Awards Banquet in Fargo
- 22-23 State Leadership Conference in Fargo
- 29 Polar Plunge in Jamestown

Memorials

Special Olympics North Dakota deeply appreciates receiving donations in memory of friends and loved ones. Memorial gifts have been received in remembrance of:

Gayle Ahrens
Candace Batts
Terry Ebach
Freddie Frey
Marge Meagher
Paul Wilke



Follow us today!



Change Brings Excitement to 2016 State Summer Games

Fargo's well known street, Broadway, has been host to athletes such as Carson Wentz, and College Football's Gameday but now you can add to that list, Special Olympics North Dakota athletes, partners and coaches. This year's event kicked off with an athlete meal at the Cathedral of St. Mary's followed by the parade of athletes escorted down Broadway and into the Fargo Civic Center, where various forms of entertainment and the Opening Ceremony patiently waited for their appearance. Powerlifting, aquatics, bocce and unified volleyball, with the help of groups such as NDSU and Fargo Davies student athletes, were held at the Fargo Davies High School facility. The Dickinson Dominators bumped, set and spiked their way to a Gold Medal finish in Division 1. On Saturday, the main event, track and field, was held at Fargo South High School with the help of Fargo Davies student athletes. Athletes ran, threw and jumped to the best of their ability throughout the rain sparse morning and afternoon. Coaches also tried to replicate the skills that they teach by finishing the day off with a coach's relay. Many smiling faces were evident throughout the weekend as athletes were given a fair chance to enjoy a weekend full of activities.



Gold Medal Entrees Raise Silver for Special Olympic Athletes

With the Summer Games happening on June 10-11, three Fargo restaurants lent a helping hand promoting the event. During the week of June 5-9, *Golf Addiction*, *Labby's Grill and Bar*, and *Lone Star Steakhouse* offered a special deal on their popular entrees where a percentage of the tab went to Special Olympics North Dakota. Together, these 3 restaurants raised money and awareness for the athletes in North Dakota!

More than 200 law enforcement carry the "Flame of Hope" to promote State Summer Games

On June 8-9, local law enforcement across North Dakota carried the Flame of Hope to raise awareness and funds for Special Olympics North Dakota and the State Summer Games. As Guardians of the Flame, more than 200 dedicated and compassionate law enforcement members, symbolize courage and celebration of diversity uniting communities across North Dakota, as they delivered the Special Olympics torch to the Opening Ceremony of the State Summer Games. Law Enforcement Torch Runs were held in the communities of Bismarck, Fargo, Grand Forks, Jamestown, Minot, Pembina, and Valley City. The 2016 Law Enforcement Torch Run sponsored in part by: **Silver Medal Sponsor:** Scheels **Bronze Medal Sponsor:** North Dakota Peace Officer's Association, North Dakota Telephone Company, North Dakota Troopers Association **Medallion Sponsor:** Northern Improvement Company



North Dakota Athletes to Represent USA at Special Olympics World Winter Games

Nearly 3,000 athletes and 1,100 coaches from 110 nations will compete at the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria, March 18-24, 2017. Competition and special event venues will be in Graz, Schladming and Ramsau.

Four Special Olympics athletes from North Dakota have been nominated to attend the Games, but will become official members of Special Olympics USA after successfully completing a training camp to be held in Vermont in December. The 2017 Special Olympics World Games USA team is comprised of 150 athletes, 40 coaches and 20 support team members.

The North Dakota athletes nominated are Dave Johs, Bismarck, cross country skiing; Christy Coughlin, Minot and Wade Wintermeyer, Jamestown, snowshoeing; and Katielynn Ovitt, Bottineau, alpine skiing.

Cindy Schopper of Valley City was selected as a snow shoe coach for Special Olympics USA. Cindy's prior coaching experience as a World Winter Games snow shoe coach for Special Olympics USA includes: 2001 in Anchorage, 2005 in Japan and in 2013 in South Korea.

Flag Football Clinic & Demonstration

On June 1st, with the support of the NDSU football student athletes, Special Olympics North Dakota held its very first school based unified flag football activity. Athletes from Fargo Davies, Fargo South and Fargo North high school came out to an evening of drills consisting of throwing, catching, running and "tackling". A short scrimmage concluded the evening activities. On June 8th a demonstration, where athletes and partners were split into their respective teams, was officiated and coached by NDSU student athletes. This is an event that SOND has taken off the pilot program and may be offered as a school based program in the Spring of 2017.

SpartanNash Foundation partners with Special Olympics, raises \$21,500 in statewide fundraising campaign

From April 27 to May 8, Special Olympics North Dakota received the great benefit of a newly formed companywide partnership with the SpartanNash Foundation, which includes all Dan's Supermarket and Family Fare Supermarket store in North Dakota. For 10 days, all Dan's Supermarket and Family Fare Supermarket store customers had the opportunity to donate \$1, \$5, or \$10 to SOND at any checkout line. In addition to the checkout lane promotion, many stores engaged their employee's in further fundraising by organizing sale of grilled hot dogs, ice cream sundaes, and in-store silent auctions. In total, the SpartanNash stores in North Dakota raised \$21,500 to benefit Special Olympics North Dakota!



Annual Golf Classics a Swinging Success

Three golf tournaments were held for SOND this summer. Minot's 20th annual golf tournament was hosted at the Souris Valley Golf Course on June 13. The weather was beautiful, and there was an increase profits from 2015! The committee was also able to recruit a NEW Gold Level (\$1000) sponsorship; *4 Bears Casino and Lodge joined Credit Unions United Chapter!*

King's Walk Golf Course held the annual Grand Forks Golf Classic for the first time in 14 years on Thursday, June 16th. The tournament hosted more than 90 golfers who played in beautiful weather. *Luneth's Plumbing and Heating* was joined by the *Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M.* as co-Title sponsors. SOND was honored to have the Free Masons join our cause and plans are to continue work with them in the future.

On June 28, golfers from Fargo and the surrounding area joined us at the Oxbow Country Club. Golfers were able to participate in two on course contests as well as enjoy the wonderful sunshine. *The committee did an excellent job, recruiting 6 Gold Level sponsors; Advantage Credit Bureau, Alerus, Anda Construction/Rose Management, ByteSpeed, Hirshfield's Paints, Red River Chapter of Credit Unions, and SA Mechanical.*

Dancing for Special Stars

Some may be known as bankers, attorneys, teachers, or business owners, but for one night, they hip hop, swing and disco to raise money for Special Olympics. For the 7th year, local community members participated in the annual Dancing for Special Stars event held at the Empire Arts Center, Grand Forks on April 12. The event was another great success, raising more than \$80,000 for Special Olympics. The event which started in 2010, teams up local community members (celebrities) and dance instructors who perform a dance routine for audience and judge votes. Eleven couples wowed a full house with their performances.

Major sponsors of the event were: AE2S, BeMobile, CHS Ag Services, Warren MN; Dahlstrom Motors, Field Brothers Farms, Fredrikson & Byron, PA, ICON Architectural Group, Markit County Grain LLC, Northridge, Quotable Kids Speech & Language Clinic, Red River Endodontics, and Vaaler Insurance.

Dance celebrities and their dance partners participating in this year's event were:

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|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Kyle Kvamme & Delaney Schultz | Ashley Rae & Dylan Smith |
| John Field & Steevie Frankl | Molly Hartman & Andy Sullivan |
| Scott Dagoberg & Alicia Bass | Peter Welte & T.J. Krug |
| Mary Haslerud Opp & Jimmy Adams | Brady and Cristiane Hansen |
| Katie Nelson & Robert Simon | Lauren Simonson & Robert Cardinal |
| Tyler Nelson & Heather Teigen | |

The winning dance team was Brady & Cristiane Hansen



Special Olympics North Dakota • 2616 S 26th St • Grand Forks ND 58201
Email: info@specialolympicsnd.org •
Phone: 701-746-0331 • Fax: 701-772-1265
www.specialolympicsnorthdakota.org
