



2016-2020 Global Strategy

Our Mission (Special Olympics) is as relevant today as it was almost 50 years ago when Special Olympics was founded by Eunice Kennedy Shriver. Sport is still the primary way Special Olympics achieves change, supported by work in health which has become critical to our mission. At the core, Special Olympics is a sports organization that uses the power of sport as a catalyst for social change. As Nelson Mandela said, “Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire, it has the power to unite people in a way that little else does...”

Our Vision is that sport will open hearts and minds toward people with intellectual disabilities (ID) and create inclusive communities all over the world. Special Olympics will STRIVE for this vision by providing better quality sports opportunities supported through health initiatives. At the same time, we will step up efforts to use our work to ‘tell the world’ about talents and abilities of people with ID.

Special Olympics has two major five-year goals. They are completely connected, and reaching both goals, not one or the other, is critical to achieving the vision.

Goal 1: Improve opportunities for athletes to perform at their best. This means strengthening our focus on sports programming, supported by our health work, so that athletes are fit and healthy, master skills, build confidence and self-reliance and perform at their best on and off the field.

Goal 2: Build positive attitudes toward people with ID. Attitude change must be a deliberate outcome of Special Olympics. It is essential that Special Olympics continuously works to improve awareness of what people with ID can achieve.

Special Olympics North Dakota (SOND) fully embraces and is addressing strategies and implementing action to support our two major goals. Some will be implemented rather quickly and visibly such as the State Summer Games expanding to a three day event. Others such as developing school based programs and youth activities such as Unified Flag Football will be gradual and on-going. For more detailed information about the 2016-2020 Global Strategy, please visit the Special Olympics website.



Insane Inflatable 5K Coming to Bismarck

The Insane Inflatable 5K is coming to Bismarck, ND! This is the first time the race has come to North Dakota and it's only in Bismarck. Get ready to experience the most fun, wild, and insane obstacle run in the world. Here's your chance to be a kid at heart and insane by choice! Register using the promo code EDUC8 and \$5 of your registration fee goes to Special Olympics North Dakota. For more information or to register, go to <http://insaneinflatable5k.com/bismarck-nd/>.

2016 Summer Games to be a Three Day Event in Fargo

This year, the 2016 Summer Games will be held June 9, 10 and 11 at various locations across Fargo for the 19th consecutive year. Note that this year the event will be starting Thursday with the Opening Ceremony and ending Saturday with the Track and Field event at Fargo South. Fargo Davies and Fargo South will be the destinations of this year's event. More than 500 athletes will compete in traditional as well as Unified events that consist of Aquatics, Bocce, Powerlifting, Track & Field and Volleyball with the help of an estimated 500 volunteers. Don't miss the action as we try a new and improved way to enhance the fun at the Summer Games!

SpartanNash Foundation to Launch Scan Promotion at Supermarkets Statewide for Special Olympics North Dakota

From April 29 to May 8, SpartanNash Supermarkets will be running a company wide fundraising campaign in partnership with Special Olympics North Dakota. At all Family Fare Supermarkets in Dickinson and the Fargo area, and Dan's Supermarket in Bismarck/Mandan, customers will have the opportunity via any checkout lane to donate \$1, \$5, or \$10 to Special Olympics North Dakota. The SpartanNash Foundation will donate 100% of funds raised to Special Olympics North Dakota.

2016 Memorials

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

Omar Amundson

Pam Ballard

David Blehm

Gary Dittmer

Tim Melland



Golf Season is in Full Swing!

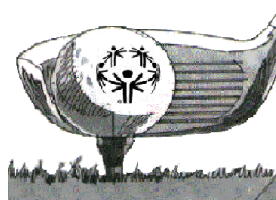
Invite friends and family to participate at one of three benefit tournaments in June. Each tournament includes a round of golf, lunch, dinner and prizes.

Monday, June 13 Souris Valley Golf Course, Minot

Thursday, June 16 King's Walk Golf Course, Grand Forks

Tuesday, June 28 Oxbow Country Club, Fargo

To register your team or to sponsor a hole, call 701-746-0331 or visit www.specialolympicsnorthdakota.org.



First Unified Rivalry Basketball Game a Slam Dunk

Special Olympics North Dakota athletes and Unified partners from the University of North Dakota and North Dakota State University participated in the inaugural Unified Sports Rivalry Basketball game Friday, February 26, at 7 p.m. at the Bentson Bunker Fieldhouse on the campus of North Dakota State University in Fargo.

Nearly 200 fans cheered for their respective teams during a game highlighted by outstanding play and animated color commentary by Dan Michaels, NDSU Football PA announcer. The atmosphere was incredible! Both teams' student sections were active and engaged from start to finish with spirited chants of DEFENSE, Let's Go Bison, and the famous "We've got spirit, yes we do, we've got spirit how 'bout you" competition. The Unified Partners from both schools were great, and there is no question our athletes had the experience of their lives playing in front of this big of a crowd.

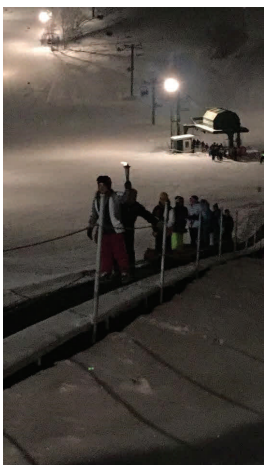
Congratulations to UND for their victory at this inaugural rivalry game!

And thanks to Fargo singing group Jones Boat for their acapella rendition of the National Anthem; to SO Colleges NDSU and UND; to volunteer officials Bison Equipment manager Taylor Parker, Bison Rewind Radio Show host Ryan Gellner, and five-time football National Champion Fullback Jedre Cy; and to Justin Swanson of NDSU Athletics for in-game event management.



Winter Games Success

Bottineau Winter Park and Annie's House were generous hosts again for the 2016 Winter Games. Frigid temperatures did not phase the athletes and volunteers as a spectacular sight was seen during the Opening Ceremony as Alpine Ski athlete Katelyn Ovit finished the last leg of the torch run skiing down the slopes in the dark of night. More than 82 athletes participated in Alpine Ski, Snowshoe and Cross Country Ski events. Saturday was a different day with amazing weather, which allowed for awards to be held outside, and great Final Day competition. Many thanks to the major sponsors: Wal-Mart, North Central Electric Co-op, Ottertail Power Company, State Bank of Bottineau, Turtle Mountain Communications, World Engineering PC, Grace Lutheran Brethren Church and Starion Financial



2016 Basketball Season Wraps up with State in Minot

The community of Minot hosted the 2016 Special Olympics North Dakota State Basketball Tournament for the 34th consecutive year. More than 370 athletes competed with the help of more than 100 volunteer coaches and close to 300 general volunteers.

The addition of the jumbotron at the Opening Ceremony started the event with a bang as Female Athlete of the Year Baylee Bjorge carried the Torch across the Minot State University Dome. Recent Special Olympics North Dakota Hall of Fame inductee Jennifer Hummel recited the athlete oath.

40 teams from 11 communities across North Dakota participated in a two-day event held across the city of Minot at facilities on the MSU campus as well as the Minot Auditorium and Bishop Ryan High School. MSU athletes supplied energy and enthusiasm to the benches this year as they volunteered their time as honorary coaches with most teams receiving at least one coach for the course of two days at the event.

Congratulations to the Grand Forks Thunder who were crowned as the Division I champs and to the Belcourt Braves, who juked and jived their way to a Gold medal in the Youth Division.



Another Successful Spread the Word to End the Word Campaign

Students across the state united with the rest of the nation March 2 for the eighth annual "Spread the Word to End the Word ®" Day to build awareness to stop use of the R-word and rally people to pledge respect toward all individuals.

The "Spread the Word to End the Word®" grassroots campaign was created in February 2009 by youth who participated in the Special Olympics Global Youth Activation Summit. It was combined with a simple call to action to take the pledge and inspired thousands of K-12 schools and universities across the country to hold rallies enlisting young people to take the pledge. To date, over 500,000 people have taken the pledge online to end the use of the R-word and millions more have signed banners and petitions throughout the world.

North Dakota schools participating and sharing results with the SOND office generated nearly 1,500 pledges on March 2. Thanks to the following high schools, colleges and universities that hosted a Spread the Word to End the Word® Day this Year:

Davies High School; Dickinson State University; Mayville State University; Minot State University; North Dakota State College of Science; North Dakota State University; Red River High School; University of North Dakota; Valley City State University; Williston State College.



Upcoming Events

April

- 10 Unified Volleyball Coaches Training-Minot
- 12 Dancing for Special Stars-Grand Forks
- 15 Special Olympics Day UND Softball-Grand Forks
- 16 Volleyball Coaches Training-Bismarck
- 17 Track and Field Coaches Training-Concordia College Moorhead
- 29 SpartanNash Promotion Starts
- 30 Area II Spring Games-Minot

May

- 1 District III Spring Games-Valley City
- 1 Area 10/11 Spring Games-Mandan
- 7 Area 5 Spring Games-East Grand Forks High School
- 8 SpartanNash Promotion Ends
- 10-15 Area 6 Spring Games-Fargo
- 15 District IV Spring Games-Dickinson

June

- 4 Insane Inflatable 5K-Bismarck
- 6 University of Mary Field of Dreams-Bismarck
- 7 Area 7 Spring Games-Wahpeton
- 9-11 State Summer Games-Fargo
- 13 Golf Tournament-Minot
- 16 Golf Tournament-Grand Forks
- 28 Golf Tournament-Oxbow

Hundreds Embrace Chill for Special Olympics North Dakota at the Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge

From January to April, more than 200 brave souls embraced the chill by raising funds and taking a chilly plunge into North Dakota waters to raise more than \$50,000 for Special Olympics North Dakota! Polar Plunges were held in Bismarck, Dickinson, Fargo, Grand Forks and Minot. The Polar Plunge® is organized by North Dakota law enforcement volunteers, as part of the year-round Law Enforcement Torch Run program, which dedicates its time to raising awareness and funds for Special Olympics.

A special thanks to the host location; the Elks Lodge #1199 in Bismarck, Dan Porter Motors in Dickinson, Ramada Plaza in Fargo, Choice Health & Fitness in Grand Forks, and the Sleep Inn & Suites in Minot. As well as the leadership of our organizing volunteers, event sponsors, and most importantly all the brave souls that celebrated the winter months of 2016 by "Freezin for a Reason!"

2016 Polar Plunges sponsored in part by:

Premier Polar Plunge Partner: AE2S (Advanced Engineering & Environmental Services)

Iceberg Sponsors (\$2,000): Wal-Mart #1581– Fargo

Igloo Sponsors (\$1,000): Dan Porter Motors– Dickinson; Legal Edge Solutions– Dickinson; RLK Enterprises– Dickinson



Hearts Were Warm This Year For Giving Hearts Day

Joined by 326 charities across North Dakota and Western Minnesota, Special Olympics North Dakota participated in Giving Hearts Day 2016. Held February 11, this online fundraising campaign had a record year, raising \$26,930 from 236 donors in 61 cities in 24 hours. Thanks to everyone who donated to make the event successful

The Best Tasting Fundraiser!

On February 16, restaurants across the state donated a percentage of sales to Special Olympics North Dakota. Thanks to those who dined at the restaurants to support the promotion, and thank you to all participating restaurants: Blue Moose Bar and Grill, East Grand Forks; The Boiler Room, Fargo; BrickHouse Grille, Dickinson; Pirogue Grille, Bismarck; Prantes Fine Dining, Wahpeton.

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

Created by the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation
Authorized and Accredited by Special Olympics Inc.
for the Benefit of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities
