Special Olympics North Dakota is part of a worldwide movement dedicated to empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities to become physically fit, productive, and respected members of society through sports training, healthy athlete initiatives and leadership development. Every year, Special Olympics athletes in North Dakota have an opportunity to take part in any of the fifteen sports offered: alpine skiing, aquatics, athletics, basketball, bocce, bowling, cross country skiing, figure skating, gymnastics, powerlifting, snow shoe racing, soccer, speed skating, volleyball, and flag football. They have opportunities to take part in local, district, state, national and world level competitions. Special Olympics sports brings out pride, courage and joy in athletes, while inviting families and entire communities to join in the celebration.

As Special Olympics moves closer to its fifth decade, we are gaining a new understanding of the importance of the Movement. In the relationships formed and in the examples set by the athletes the world sees a new way of thinking, feeling and acting. Special Olympics inspires people to accept, include and value people with Intellectual Disabilities.

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2015 State Competition Athlete Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Athletes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winter Games</td>
<td>79</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>451</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Games</td>
<td>514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer/Bocce</td>
<td>321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowling</td>
<td>647</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bottineau
Minot
Fargo
Grand Forks
Mandan

Additional Statewide Competitions: 62
Statewide Volunteers: 5,005
Coaches: 250

Special Olympics North Dakota
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Grand Forks ND 58201
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Created by the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation
Authorized and Accredited by Special Olympics Inc.
For the benefit of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities
To provide year-round sports training and competition in a variety of Olympic type sports for persons eight years of age and older with intellectual disabilities, giving them the opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

Our Mission

Celebrations at a Glance

- Special Olympics North Dakota served more than 1,500 athletes in year-round sports training and competition, with the help of more than 5,000 volunteers in 2015.

- The Law Enforcement Torch Run Program involved more than 300 Law Enforcement volunteers and raised more than $145,000 through events and promotions such as tee shirt sales, Truck Convoy, Applebees Tip-a-Cop Promotion, & six Polar Plunges where more than 260 participants braved the chilly North Dakota waters to raise money and awareness for Special Olympics.

- The 6th Annual Dancing For Special Stars in Grand Forks was a great success raising more than $85,000. The event was also held in Minot for the first time in November.

- Special Olympics and the Knights of Columbus, with support of the Supreme Council and numerous fundraising events held across the state, presented SOND $17,000 at their state convention. The 4th degree Knights of Columbus also provide meals and Color Guard at numerous state and local events in North Dakota.

- Athletes from North Dakota represented Special Olympics USA at the 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Los Angeles California, bringing home 4 Gold Medals. Josh Jerome of Grand Forks competed in Athletics and Adam Maresh of Valley City competed in Power Lifting.

- Special Olympics North Dakota has three accredited Special Olympics College programs: Minot State University, NDSU, and UND. All 3 programs came together to compete in a pilot program Youth Unified Flag Football tournament held at UND. It was the first time representatives from North Dakota’s three SO Colleges came together for competition.

- The ND High School Girls State Class B Basketball Tournament featured two Special Olympics basketball teams for a half-time exhibition at the consolation game in Minot with more than 3,000 spectators in the stands.

- In June, the Unified Relay across America that touched all 50 states on its way to the Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles passed through North Dakota with a community celebration in Fargo. Seventy-two Torchbearers carried the flame to support Special Olympics North Dakota and the World Games! The success of the community celebration in Fargo provided the inspiration to conduct community celebrations in Bismarck and Jamestown to bring more awareness to the communities about Special Olympics and Unified Sports.

- For the 11th year, the trucking industry participated in the Truck Convoy in Fargo, which was the biggest truck convoy in the history of the event in North Dakota with 75 big rigs and tow trucks participating.

- Athlete participation in winter sports increased by 26%. This growth was celebrated at the State Winter Games inaugural experience at Annie’s House, Bottineau Winter Park.