



## Summer Fun, Friendship and Fierce Competition in Fargo

The 2019 SOND State Summer Games kicked off on a warm Thursday night in downtown Fargo as fans from across the region lined the streets to cheer on our champions. The Parade of Athletes, escorted by North Dakota State University student athletes and North Dakota Law Enforcement, made its way to the Fargo Civic Center for the Opening Ceremony. Female Athlete of the Year Holly Sabinash of Valley City and Tech Sgt. Erik Clemensen of the ND Air National Guard joined in igniting the cauldron to officially open up the Games. This year, 13 communities provided nearly 600 athletes and 112 coaches as participants in the three day event. Our athletes, partners and coaches gave their best in the sports of bocce, flag football, powerlifting, swimming, track & field, and volleyball.

The weekend was one to remember containing countless celebrations. A new program from Standing Rock High School participated in track & field. Thanks to our wonderful volunteer healthcare providers, Special Olympics Lions Clubs International Opening Eyes and Special Smiles were offered at Fargo Davies High School. Fifty-eight athletes sat in the dentist's chair for a screening. In reward for their bravery, each athlete received a sling bag filled with dental hygiene products courtesy of Dakota Dental Associates. The eighty-two athletes who participated in the Opening Eyes program received a comprehensive eye assessment with sixty athletes receiving prescription eyewear; other athletes who participated received either sunglasses or sports goggles. Overall, more than 650 volunteers and thirty five organizations supported the 2019 Summer Games. (continued pg. 2)

### Upcoming Events

#### August

- 18 District IV Soccer/Bocce Tournament- Bismarck
- 25 District III Soccer/Bocce Tournament-West Fargo

#### September

- 14-15 State Soccer/Bocce Tournament-Grand Forks
- 17-18 Applebee's Tip A Cop-statewide
- 28 Truck Convoy-Fargo

#### October

- 15 Dancing for Special Stars-Minot
- 26 State Awards Banquet-Fargo
- 26-27 State Leadership Conference -Fargo

#### November

- 9-10 State Bowling Tournament -Bismarck/Mandan

## 2019 Memorials

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

Candace Batts	Roxanne Melberg
Ashley Bada	Connor Sander
Richard Hummel	Pete "Dwight" Thrall
Dawn Rae Ludwig	Lloyd Wittmayer
Dean Martin	



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## Summer Games continued

Another highlight of the weekend was the addition of a new sport to the Summer Games. Unified Flag Football was offered to school-based teams at the high school level. This inaugural showcase event featured two teams made up of athletes and partners from Fargo and West Fargo High Schools. Everyone is excited for the growth that is happening in our North Dakota Schools as Special Olympics and the Unified Champion Schools program touches more lives.

SOND is pleased to offer a special thanks to our Summer Games Premier Sponsors. SpartanNash, whose stores across the state raised dollars through a scan promotion; Fargo Area Knights of Columbus Councils, for providing and serving all of the athlete meals for the three-day tournament and Sanford Health for their generous financial support! Other sponsors include: Gold Medal-Fargo Kiwanis Club, Sammons Financial Group; Silver Medal-Choice Bank, Fargo-Moorhead Convention and Visitors Bureau, Horace Lions Club, North Dakota Athletic Trainers Association, R.D. Offutt Company, United Valley Bank, West Acres Shopping Center and Xcel Energy.



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## Lots of fun and smiles at the Summer Games





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## Law Enforcement carry the Flame of Hope throughout the state!

More than 160 law enforcement officers and volunteers participated in runs covering communities across the state of North Dakota, beginning on June 5, which culminated with the Final Leg at the Opening Ceremony for the 2019 State Summer Games. The Summer Games gave athletes and coaches the opportunity to march down Broadway Avenue, escorted from start to finish by members of the law enforcement community, the true "Guardians of the Flame of Hope." Special thanks to all thirty one Casey's General Stores across North Dakota for the support they showed during the month of June and for all the money they raised for the Law Enforcement Torch Run!

Law Enforcement sponsors include:

### Gold Sponsor

Casey's General Store

### Silver Sponsor

Scheels

### Bronze Sponsor

McKenzie Energy Partners

North Dakota Peace Officers Association

North Dakota Telephone Company

North Dakota Troopers Association



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## Do you have an outstanding athlete, volunteer, sponsor in your community?

Special Olympics North Dakota is fortunate to have so many outstanding volunteers, families and sponsors involved with our program. Nominating them to be considered for a state award or a member of the Special Olympics North Dakota Hall of Fame is one way of acknowledging how much you value their time, talent and energy. We also have many outstanding athletes who train hard throughout the year, help support their local program with fundraising and outreach efforts.

Nomination forms can be found on our website at [www.specialolympicsnd.org](http://www.specialolympicsnd.org). The Special Olympics state Awards Banquet will be held at the Ramada Inn, Fargo on Saturday, October 26.

**Nominations for State Awards and Hall of Fame are due September 6th.**

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## Golf Classic for Special Olympics swings thru!



Golfers came out in dozens of foursomes during the three Golf Classics at Grand Forks, Fargo, and Minot! The Golf Classic came to the Grand Forks Country Club on June 17, Oxbow Country Club on June 25, and the Minot Country Club on July 15! Fifty six teams and 223 golfers enjoyed friendly competition while raising money for Special Olympics North Dakota! Some highlights include: The Fargo tournament was the biggest tournament in the history, with twenty four teams and ninety six golfers; and the Grand Forks tournament had the most sponsors ever with fifty two sponsors giving a total of \$24,375 in sponsorships! Thanks to all of the sponsors who made this event truly successful!

## SAVE THE DATES FOR NEXT YEAR'S GOLF CLASSICS!

Fargo Golf Classic-June 15

Grand Forks Golf Classic-June 25

Minot Golf Classic – TBA



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## SpartanNash stuns at State Summer Games

In May, ten SpartanNash Stores, including Family Fare and Dan's Supermarkets, raised \$29,000 as part of a sponsorship for State Summer Games! Stores asked customers to contribute and many provided events where volunteers and athletes cooked brats and sold them to customers.



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## Casey's General Stores delivers more than pizza!

Thirty one Casey's General Stores across North Dakota spend the month of June raising money and awareness for the Law Enforcement Torch Run, raising over \$20,000! Employees asked customers to "round up for Special Olympics" and boy did they ever! A pizza/drink special also helped bring in the "dough", through a partnership with Coca-Cola. Thank you to all of the staff and customers who made this third annual event a great success!



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## Save the date

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### 2019 State Soccer and Bocce Tournament Set for September 14 & 15

Grand Forks will once again play host to the SOND State Soccer and Bocce Tournament in 2019. Competition, Opening Ceremony, Olympic Town and Awards will be held at South Middle School on September 14 & 15 with the Friday evening meal, dance and Healthy Athlete screenings at Grand Forks Red River High School. More than 500 athletes, unified partners and coaches from ten communities across the state are expected to participate in unified soccer, traditional and unified doubles and team bocce competition.

If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity for yourself, your business or organization for one or both days, please visit our website at [www.specialolympicsnd.org](http://www.specialolympicsnd.org). We are always excited to welcome back past volunteers and introduce new people to the joy of volunteering in our program.



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### Have a "tip" for cops?

Applebee's Neighborhood Grill and Bar will once again partner with the Law Enforcement Torch Run and sponsor Tip-A-Cop on Sept. 17-18! More than sixty law enforcement personnel from fifteen different agencies will volunteer their time, hosting guests in Applebee's across the state to raise awareness and tip money for Special Olympics.

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**"Yeah, we got a little convoy, ain't she a beautiful sight? Come on and join our convoy, ain't nothin' gonna get in our way." "Convoy" by C.W. McCall "**

Save the date for the 2019 Truck Convoy for Special Olympics on Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>! The annual fundraiser is organized by members of the North Dakota trucking community and local law enforcement. The event is held at SUPER-VALU|UNFI Distribution Center in Fargo. The Truck Convoy will traverse an 18-mile convoy route throughout the city of Fargo. A silent auction, along with a chance to win the Lead Dog and Tail End positions are also available! For more information visit: [Register for Truck Convoy](#)



The 5th Annual Dancing for Special Stars in Minot will be held on October 15th at the Ann Nicole Nelson Hall. The event pairs up local celebrities/business owners/professionals with dance instructors to perform a dance. The event also includes a reception, silent auction and specialty entertainment acts. Funds from the event are raised through sponsorships, ticket sales, donations and the silent auction.

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## Fun Facts of 2018 Successes

Thanks to the hard work of our athletes, volunteers and supporters, 2018 was another successful year for Special Olympics North Dakota. Every year, Special Olympics North Dakota publishes an Annual Report that highlights who we are, what we do, the year's greatest celebrations, and a snap shot of the finances of the organization. Some fun facts from this year's report include:

- ◆ SOND offered 85 sport competitions
- ◆ The largest athletic competition was the Summer Games with 731 athletes competing
- ◆ 5,176 people volunteered
- ◆ 341 coaches participate in our organization
- ◆ 1.32 million dollars was raised and the organization realized expenses of over 1.30 million. Programs Services accounted for 68% of the expenses with Fundraising adding another 25%.
- ◆ The average cost of an athlete participating in Special Olympics in North Dakota is \$1,183

For more information please visit us at [www.specialolympicsnd.org](http://www.specialolympicsnd.org)

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### Partner with the Pie!



Spicy Pie love Special Olympics North Dakota! When you order Spicy Pie let the cashier know you want to support Special Olympics North Dakota and Spicy Pie will contribute **20%** of your bill to the organization! Dine-in, carry out, and delivery. For online ordering, add a special note with Special Olympics North Dakota if you would like Spicy Pie to contribute 20% to your online order!

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### The Revolution is Inclusion

In every corner of the earth, Special Olympics is changing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics International launched a new campaign to end discrimination against people with intellectual disabilities (ID) and to create a fully inclusive world. The Revolution is Inclusion campaign aims to engage and activate 100 million people across the world and to raise \$100 million for the transformative work of the Special Olympics movement. You can join the REVOLUTION by signing this pledge today!

[Sign the Inclusion Pledge](#)

THE REVOLUTION  
IS INCLUSION

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