



50 Years of Empowerment and Inclusion

On July 20th, 1968, Eunice Kennedy Shriver gave the opening address at the first Special Olympics Summer Games at Soldier Field in Chicago, Illinois. Few people could have dreamed that what was to follow was a global movement ignited on that day. Since then, Special Olympics has grown to include 4.9 million athletes across 172 countries. Eunice Kennedy Shriver's dream was sown in North Dakota because of founder, Dr. Roger Kerns in 1972. 2018 will include a number of celebrations around the globe, highlighted at its birthplace, Chicago, Illinois from July 17 to July 21. For those who have helped to make the first 50 years a success beyond imagination, we sincerely thank you. For those considering joining, we urge you to take part and help shape the next 50 years of Special Olympics. Visit <https://www.specialolympics.org/50th.aspx> for more information.

The Woman Who Changed the World– Eunice Kennedy Shriver

While we celebrate 50 years of Special Olympics, we must celebrate the woman who made it all possible. Eunice Kennedy Shriver was honored with the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom, was the first living woman to appear on a commemorative U.S. Mint silver dollar coin, was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame, and is the first person who did not serve as a U.S. President or First Lady to have her portrait hanging in the National Portrait Gallery. Thank you Eunice Kennedy Shriver.



Special
Olympics
North Dakota



2018 Memorials

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

Aloys Mastel	Curtis Aalund
Tom Grafenauer	Ardys Mandt
Nyla Lewis	Donald Fricke
David Anderson	



Upcoming Events

April

- 10 Dancing for the Special Stars- Grand Forks
- 28 District II Spring Games- Grand Forks

May

- 2-13 Spartan Nash Promotion
- 6-12 Hugo's Promotion
- 6 District III Spring Games- Valley City
- 6 District IV Spring Games- Mandan
- 19 Area 12 Spring Games- Dickinson (track and volleyball)

June

- 1-30 Casey's Promotion
- 7-9 State Summer Games– Fargo
- 21 Grand Forks Golf Classic
- 26 Fargo Golf Classic

July

- 1-7 USA Games- Seattle, Wa.
- 17 Minot Golf Classic
- 17-21 Special Olympics 50th Anniversary Celebration- Chicago, Ill.

September

- 8 LETR Truck Convoy
- 15-16 State Soccer Tournament
- 18-19 LETR Applebee's Tip-A- Cop- Statewide

Team North Dakota Prepares for USA Games

Thirty three athletes and unified partners, along with 12 coaches and delegates from across North Dakota will be heading to the 2018 Special Olympics USA Games to be held July 1-6.

Team North Dakota will join nearly 3,500 athletes with the support of 1,000 coaches, and tens of thousands volunteers, family members, friends and spectators to participate in a celebration of inclusion and acceptance, while showcasing their awe-inspiring abilities through sports. In addition to sports competition, Team North Dakota will attend a number of special events, including the Opening Ceremony at Husky Stadium, Olympic Town activities and Healthy Athlete events. The 2018 USA Games will truly be a once in a lifetime experience for everyone involved!

Team North Dakota is working on raising more than \$50,000 to support their trip to the USA Games through the "Bakeless Bake Sale" and a statewide calendar raffle. Donations will be used for travel expenses,

training camp, and uniforms.

You can help support Team USA by sending your donation to Special Olympics North Dakota · 2616 S 26th St · Grand Forks ND 58201

Athletics (Track and Field)

Nina Costa, Bottineau
Christy Coughlin, Minot
RoxAnne DeKrey, Valley City
Skylar Lux, Jamestown
Heather Martell, Jamestown
Billy Pyfer, Dickinson
Coach: Cindy Schopper, Valley City
Coach: Nicole Kilwein, Dickinson

Basketball

Andy Erickson, Cass County
Christopher Haider, Cass County
Myron Houser, Jamestown
Josh Jerome, Grand Forks
Todd Lueck, Cass County
Aidan Meidinger, Bismarck
Jason Melby, Cass County
Collin Pribula, Cass County
Lance Rosenkranz, Cass County
James Wolfgram, Grand Forks
Coach: Dave Meske, Cass County
Coach: Jordan Lorenzen, Cass County

Bowling

Nicole Hanel, Dickinson
Tawnya Jenner, Cass County
Coach: Ryan Kilwein, Dickinson

Powerlifting

Shale Erickson, Mandan
Jecky Oulare, Grand Forks
Coach: Kurt Weinberg, Bismarck

Unified Bocce

Jennifer Hummel, Cass County
Dave Johs, Bismarck
Joe Johs, Bismarck
Colleen Phillips, Cass County
Coach: Ken Stockert, Dickinson

Unified Flag Football (Collegiate)

Trevor Bratvold, Grand Forks
Kennedy Bresnahan, Grand Forks
David Dahlgren, Grand Forks
Deion Hanson, Grand Forks
Emma Ilvedson, Grand Forks
Tyler Lee, Grand Forks
Tommy Mikkelson, Grand Forks
Sarah Sand, Grand Forks
Jennifer Trader, Grand Forks
Coach: Michael Storandt, Grand Forks
Coach: Kevin Robson, Grand Forks



SPECIAL OLYMPICS
USA GAMES
SEATTLE 2018



Casey's shows support for Special Olympics

Special Olympics North Dakota is excited to be partnering with Casey's and Coca Cola this summer. Through the entire month of June, Casey's stores in several states will be selling \$1 pin ups with the proceeds going back to Special Olympics. Coca Cola will also be making a donation through fountain drink sales. With all the summer travel, we encourage you to stop at your local Casey's and support Special Olympics North Dakota.



Urgency Meets Impact

On February 13, 2018, Special Olympics had presence at our nation's capital when all 50 states had Special Olympics representation from their leaders and their athletes. This day in Washington, D.C., not only recognized the 50th Anniversary celebration and what the program has done for people with intellectual disabilities, but all states met with their congressional leadership asking for continued legislative support that guarantees the rights, full participation, and integration of people with intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics recognizes the progress the United States as a whole has made in eliminating the stigma, stereotypes, isolation, and discrimination that people with intellectual disabilities face – most importantly around access to sport, health, and education. That day, we asked the United States Government to join Special Olympics in remaining vigilant against any erosion of provisions that have made a substantial difference in the lives of people with intellectual disabilities.



SpartanNash and Hugo's grocery stores help raise silver for gold!

In May, two grocery store chains, SpartanNash (Family Fair and Dan's Supermarkets) and Hugo's Family Marketplace will be running scan promotions in their stores, helping to raise funds to support Special Olympics North Dakota and Team North Dakota when they travel to USA Games and pursue dreams of bringing gold medals back to the state!

Please lend your support by visiting your favorite Family Fare and Dan's Supermarkets in Bismarck, Mandan, Dickinson and Fargo (May 2-13) and Hugo's in Jamestown and Grand Forks (May 6-12).

We are grateful to both businesses for their support and generosity in helping our athletes and coaches reach for their dreams!



Swing by and support SOND with 3 of your favorite golf classics (Swing...get it?)

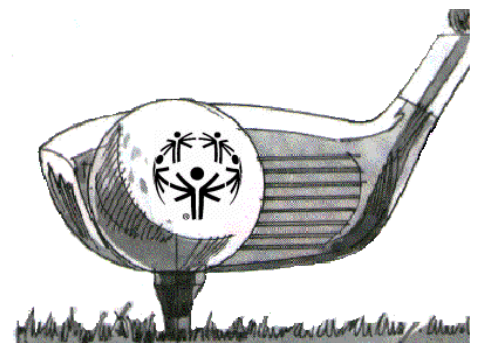
It is time to save the dates for golf tournament season! Our Golf Classics will be happening across the state this summer and it is never too soon to mark the dates on your calendar! The Golf Classics are a scramble format and teams of 4 will tee off and choose the best shot of the team and play from there. Enjoy a great afternoon on beautiful greens and maybe even impress others with a hole-in-one!

Opportunities include:

June 21 - Grand Forks Golf Classic at the Grand Forks Country Club

June 26 - Fargo Golf Classic at Oxbow Country Club

TBA - Minot Golf Classic



Swish! Another State Basketball Success

Thank you to all who attended the 2018 State Basketball Tournament on March 9 and 10 in Minot. This year hosted 443 athletes making up 47 teams. This included 14 youth teams, increasing the numbers from last year. Teams came from all over North Dakota (Belcourt, Bismarck, Cass County, Dickinson, Grand Forks, Harvey, Jamestown, Mandan, Minot, Valley City, and Wahpeton) and even a team from Canada (Team Manitoba). During opening ceremonies, Team North Dakota got to show off its delegations for the USA games in July. The team also got to put its skills to the test by scrimmaging Team Manitoba during the evening meal. Thanks in large part to all our sponsors and volunteers for making this another great event. A special thanks to Minot State University and the MSU Dome for hosting this event.



SO Colleges Make it Rain Inside the SHAC

SO College NDSU and SO College UND renewed its rivalry on the hardwood on February in the 3rd Annual ESPN Rivalry Basketball Game. Special Olympics North Dakota was honored to play where only the finest collegiate athletes have played, the SHAC. While UND won the game, no doubt everyone in attendance went home a champion. Great fellowship, great competition and first class facilities left all involved inspired and appreciative in the youth involvement in our state program. A big thank you goes out to NDSU for use of their wonderful venue, the game day officials and clock operators and all the other parties that made this event a success. Most of all thank you to our SO Colleges at UND and NDSU. It is great to see the energy and enthusiasm with which they carry out the global movement that is Special Olympics.



Special Olympics North Dakota Fabulous Fundraisers!

A Special Night Out Raises Funds for USA Games

North Dakota's best tasting fundraiser happened across the state in February with 10 restaurants donating a percentage of their proceeds to Special Olympics ND. The proceeds will be used to help support team North Dakota as it travels to Seattle Washington to participate in the USA Games in July. Partners for this important effort include : The Brickhouse in Dickinson, The Pirogue Grille in Bismarck, The Depot in Jamestown, The City Lights Supper Club in Valley City, The Boiler Room in Fargo, The Blue Moose Bar and Grill in East Grand Forks, Sky's Cloud 9 in Grand Forks, The Ranch in Devils Lake and our newest partner, Elevation in Minot. Please keep these wonderful restaurants in mind as you make your dining plans in 2018. Their valuable support of this fundraiser is greatly appreciated.



**Giving
Hearts
Day**

FEB  8TH

Over 300 donors said "Count Me" during Giving Hearts Day!

Giving Heart's Day theme was Count Me, and over 300 did just that when they gave to the 24 hour online day of giving. Gifts over \$10 were matched up to \$4,500 thanks to generous matching gifts. We are grateful to the Dakota Medical Foundation/Impact Foundation and Gate City Bank for their generous support, along with all of the donors and area business who truly showed that we live in "the most generous region on the planet."



I am an athlete in Special Olympics North Dakota and I have an intellectual disability. #CountMe
Jecky Oulare,
Grand Forks

Gifts of \$10 or more, made on Feb. 8 will be matched up to \$4,500!



GivingHeartsDay.org

Over 170 plungers successfully soaked this winter!

Five plunges, 173 very cold supporters, and many great photos wrapped up the winter Polar Plunge season! Plunges were held in Fargo at Delta Hotels; Grand Forks at Choice Health & Fitness; Bismarck at Elks Lodge; Minot at Sleep Inn; and Dickinson at Cashwise Foods! Awards given include Most Dollar Raised by an Individual, Most Money Raised by a Team, Best Costume, Best Belly Flop, Whitest Legs, Youngest Plunger, and of course, the Golden Plunger, which is awarded to the Law Enforcement Team that raised the most money.



**2018
POLAR
PLUNGE**



SPECIAL OLYMPICS
NORTH DAKOTA

The Polar Plunge is organized by North Dakota law enforcement volunteers, as part of the year-round Law Enforcement Torch Run program (LETR), which dedicates its time to raising awareness and funds for Special Olympics. A special thank you goes out to the leadership and volunteers of our organizing committees, event sponsors, donors, and most importantly all the brave souls that celebrated the winter months of 2018 by "Freezin' for a Reason!"



Bottineau sets backdrop for Winter Games

The 2018 Winter Games were again a huge success. They were held January 26-27 at the Bottineau Winter Park. Competing were 68 athletes from 10 cities across North Dakota (Bismarck, Bottineau, Cass County, Grafton, Grand Forks, Jamestown, Jamestown Anne Carlson, Mandan, Minot, and Valley City). This year the Winter Games had three events, alpine skiing, snow shoeing, and cross country skiing. This event was a success in part because of the staff at Bottineau Winter Park and the student athletes from Dakota College at Bottineau who volunteered their time.



10 Years of Spread the Word to End the Word

2018 marked the 10th year of the Special Olympics driven initiative to end the use of the harmful and derogatory word retard(ed) in society. This year's campaign was led by our SO College programs at NDSU, UND, Minot State, and Valley City State Universities, as well as various school districts around the state. Events were not only held at various physical locations across North Dakota such as our State Basketball Tournament and Unified Rivalry Basketball Game, but on new and exciting social media channels. Most notably, the R-Word photo challenge asked participants to take a photo demonstrating their inventive way of eliminating the R-word. If you have not participated in an R-word event, there is still plenty of time to hold an event or join in the photo challenge. Please use the #Rwordnd hashtag when posting your photo. If you did participate in an R-word event please fill out an event form by visiting:

https://docs.google.com/formsd/1B6Om8ofzBp9ishT5bYBEc_Z5XrilctZX1-V23eOhYBM/viewform?edit_requested=true.

We would love to hear how your event turned out!



**SPREAD THE WORD
TO END THE WORD**
03.07.18

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for the Benefit of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities**

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