



Be a fan™

6600 Palomas NE
Suite 207
Albuquerque, NM 87109

(505) 856-0342
1-800-371-5525 (In State)
FAX (505) 856-0346
www.sonm.org

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NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Erin Gallegos, Communications Manager
505-991-7295
eringallegos@sonm.org

Special Olympics New Mexico celebrates who “We Are” at 2013 State Summer Games

Albuquerque, NM - On May 31-June 2, Special Olympics New Mexico's (SONM) 2013 State Summer Games will return to Albuquerque at UNM's Track and Field Stadium and UNM's Johnson Center. The event, presented by *Mountain States Insurance Group*, will showcase the athletic talents of almost 1,400 Special Olympics New Mexico athletes and coaches as they compete in Track and Field, Bocce, Soccer, and Unified Volleyball.

“The theme for these State Summer Games is WE ARE, and when you put that in the context of our Special Olympics athletes who reside in over 108 communities, many descriptors come to mind – courageous, kind, determined, fun, and amazing,” stated SONM Executive Director Randy Mascarella. “When you put the Summer Games in the context of the 1,000+ volunteers and Community Partners who make them possible, those descriptors don’t change. The Special Olympics State Summer Games are a great reminder that as an athlete, family member, coach, volunteer, community partner, or law enforcement Torch Runner, together - WE ARE NEW MEXICO - and that is something to be very proud of.”

Once again SONM will return to Cliff's Amusement Park for “SONM Day at Cliff's” and the Victory Dance. As the only program in the country to have their Victory Dance at an amusement park, SONM is proud to partner with Cliff's and give Special Olympics athletes, many of whom have never ridden a rollercoaster, this unique opportunity. SONM Day at Cliff's begins at 1:00 pm and lasts until 10:00 pm.

SONM athletes will also have the opportunity to receive health screenings in the following areas: Opening Eyes (vision), Special Smiles (dentistry), Fit Feet (podiatry), FUNfitness (physical therapy), and blood pressure screenings by Blue Cross Blue Shield. Blake's Lotaburger, Panda Express, and Rudy's BBQ will be providing the tournament meals.

SONM provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing 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. Today, Special Olympics New Mexico serves over 2,600 athletes, offering training and competition in 12 sports. Across the world, more than 3.5 million children and adults with intellectual disabilities participate in more than 200 programs in 180 countries. SONM is sponsored year-round and statewide by New Mexico Knights of Columbus, New Mexico Law Enforcement Torch Run, Dex Media, French Funerals Cremations, Wells Fargo, Daniels Fund, The Payroll Company, and ConocoPhillips.

For more detailed information and a schedule for the 2013 SONM State Summer Games visit www.sonm.org, or call (505) 856-0342.

Be a fan of sports. Be a fan of courage. Be a fan of acceptance and dignity. Be a fan of joy.

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