

## Special Olympics New Mexico

6600 Palomas NE, Suite 207 Albuquerque, NM 87109  
(505) 856-0342  
1-800-371-5525 (In State)  
FAX (505) 856-0346  
[www.sonm.org](http://www.sonm.org)

**Special Olympics**  
New Mexico



November 12, 2013

## News Release

**Contact:** Erin Gallegos  
(505) 991-7295 cell  
[eringallegos@sonm.org](mailto:eringallegos@sonm.org)

### ***Special Olympics New Mexico's Holiday Classic returns to Las Cruces this weekend***

[Las Cruces, NM] – For the first time since 2010, Special Olympics New Mexico (SONM) announces Holiday Classic – SONM's south regional Bowling and Basketball tournament on November 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> in Las Cruces.

On Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, over 500 Special Olympics athletes and families from six areas of the state will gather for the Holiday Classic Opening Ceremonies at 6:30 pm at the Las Cruces Convention Center. On Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, Bowling Competition at Ten Pin Alley and Basketball Competition at the NMSU Student Activities Center will commence at 8:00 am. Special Olympics athletes will be awarded with medals for their skills both at the lanes and on the court. Competition will conclude at 4:00 pm and athletes will reconvene for the traditional Victory Dance at the Las Cruces Convention Center at 7:30 pm.

SONM athletes will also have the opportunity to visit Healthy Athletes venues and receive dental and eye exams and physical therapy consultations on Saturday. Healthy Athletes is an SONM initiative that brings together volunteer medical professionals at State Competitions to provide health screenings.

"The Special Olympics New Mexico Holiday Classic Competition will be a lot more than your average bowling or basketball tournament," said SONM Executive Director Randy Mascorella. "For every nondisabled person who shows up, it will be a reminder that when in the presence of people challenged with intellectual disabilities, we recover and discover the best that lies within all of us. We are thankful to the Las Cruces community for their support of our Special Olympics athletes."

The 2013 Holiday Classic is sponsored by Ten Pin Alley, Ryder Truck, Frito Lay, Delta Dental Plan of New Mexico, White Sands Federal Credit Union, Sonic, American Medical Response, Pepsi Las Cruces, Corner Deli, Meca Therapies, LLC, and United Parcel Service.

Special Olympics New Mexico 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 14 sports. Across the world, more than 3 million children and adults with intellectual disabilities participate in more than 200 programs in 180 countries. SONM is sponsored year-round by New Mexico Law Enforcement Torch Run, New Mexico Knights of Columbus, Wells Fargo, ConocoPhillips, Dex, French Funerals and Cremations, Daniels Fund, The Payroll Company, and Mark's Casa Auto Group.

###

**Unquestionable Integrity. Unwavering Excellence. Unbelievable Fun. Undeniable Respect. Unlimited Family.**