

## Special Olympics New Mexico

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**Special Olympics**  
New Mexico



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## NEWS RELEASE

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### Special Olympics New Mexico athletes will “Compete With the Best” at this year’s State Summer Games

Albuquerque, NM - On May 30-June 1, Special Olympics New Mexico (SONM) will return to the UNM Track and Field Stadium for the 2014 State Summer Games. Presented by Mountain States Insurance Group, the State Summer Games will showcase the athletic skills of over 1,500 Special Olympics athletes, coaches and Unified Partners as they compete in Track and Field, Bocce, Unified Soccer, and Unified Volleyball. Event festivities will kick off on Friday May 30, with Opening Ceremonies from 7:00pm-8:30pm, followed by Track and Field, Bocce, and Soccer on Saturday all at the UNM Track and Field Stadium, and Volleyball on Sunday at Sandia Preparatory School.

“This year’s Summer Games theme “Compete **With** The Best” was inspired by the Unified sports athletes that will be competing in these Games,” stated SONM Executive Director Randy Mascorella. “Special Olympics Unified Sports creates opportunities for children and adults with intellectual disabilities and those without disabilities to train, play, and compete together as teammates. The hope is that as New Mexicans play unified – they will learn to live unified – making our schools, our places of work, and our communities places of acceptance and respect. This year’s Summer Games will host unified competitions in Soccer, Volleyball, Track relays, and Bocce. Over 270 Unified Partners will be competing with our Special Olympics athletes.”

On Saturday, from 10:00 am – 2:00 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.

For the third year in a row, SONM will return to Cliff’s Amusement Park for “Special Olympics Day at Cliff’s” and the Victory Dance on Saturday May 31. As the only program in the country to have their Victory Dance at an amusement park, SONM places an incredible value on this partnership with Cliff’s and is grateful to give Special Olympics athletes the chance to experience an amusement park when they may not have the opportunity otherwise. Special Olympics Day at Cliff’s takes place from 12:00 pm – 9:00 pm.

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 2,700 athletes, offering training and competition in 13 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, Mark’s Casa, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Comcast, New Mexico Chevy Dealers and ConocoPhillips.

For more detailed information and a schedule for the 2014 SONM State Summer Games visit [www.sonm.org](http://www.sonm.org), or call (505) 856-0342.

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