

# Special Olympics New Mexico OPENING EYES

The Special Olympics Lions Clubs International Opening Eyes® program is changing lives in communities, providing free eye assessments, prescription eyewear, sunglasses and sports goggles to people with intellectual disabilities. At the end of the 12-step visual exam, a decision is made if new glasses may be helpful. **Through the generosity of our corporate sponsors Essilor (lenses) and Safilo (frames), athletes choose from a selection of free eyewear.** Athletes who do not need any corrective lenses receive plano sunglasses provided by Safilo.

Volunteers are needed to assist with athlete in-take as well as day-of Opening Eyes screenings. All volunteers will receive training, a free t-shirt and lunch!

## Purpose & Goals

- Increase access to eye care for Special Olympics athletes, as well as all people with intellectual disabilities
- Raise eye care professionals' awareness of vision and eye health concerns of people with special needs, including difficulties involved in accessing treatment
- Develop a body of knowledge about vision and eye health of children and adults with special needs
- Providing vision exams, refractions, and dispensing of appropriate eyewear to athletes
- Educating athletes, their guardians, coaches and administrators about the importance of vision to the performance of athletes in sports, school and work

*Opening Eyes examinations have found that a large percentage of Special Olympics athletes in the U.S. have untreated eye problems.*

- 4% have never had an eye exam
- 17% have an eye disease
- 48% need new prescription glasses

## When

### Holiday Classic

Saturday, October 25th, 2025

9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

## Where

Las Cruces Convention Center

680 E University Ave

Las Cruces, NM 88001

## Contact

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