

## Media Alert

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## 30 Special Olympics New Mexico Athletes will Travel to Minnesota on June 19 to Compete at the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games

*Team New Mexico will Compete in Minneapolis, Minnesota June 20–26*

**WHAT (Media Opportunity):** Help us celebrate Team New Mexico at the ABQ International Sunport on Friday, June 19 before they travel to Minnesota! 30 Special Olympics New Mexico athletes will compete at the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games, held in Minneapolis, Minnesota June 20–26.

**WHO:** Special Olympics New Mexico will send a 49-member delegation, including 30 Special Olympics athletes, to represent New Mexico at the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games.

Team New Mexico is comprised of 30 athletes, 7 coaches, 1 Adult Athlete Leader, 2 Unified Champion Schools® students, and 9 staff. The New Mexico delegation will compete in 4 of the 16 Olympic-type sports offered at the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games, including athletics (track & field), basketball, bocce and bowling.

### WHEN/WHERE:

- **ABQ International Sunport Sendoff:** Friday, June 19: 4:30 AM until approximately 5 AM
- **Meeting place:** Inside the airport, join us in the **Sunport Press Room on the second level.** The room is located to the left of the escalators leading up to the TSA checkpoint, essentially beneath the C Gates sign.
  - **Address:** 2200 Sunport Blvd SE, Albuquerque NM 87106

**WHY:** The 2026 Special Olympics USA Games, taking place June 20–26 in Minnesota, will bring together over 3,000 athletes, 1,500 coaches, 10,000+ volunteers and 75,000 fans from all 50 states, creating an unparalleled celebration of ability and inclusion.

**Note:** Learn more and view the full delegation roster for Special Olympics New Mexico on our website: <https://sonm.org/about/nm-2026-so-usa-games/>

### About Special Olympics USA Games

The 2026 Special Olympics USA Games – scheduled for June 20–26, 2026, across Minnesota’s Twin Cities with sports competitions at the University of Minnesota and the National Sports Center in Blaine – is a national celebration of inclusivity, changing perceptions and the ability of the human spirit rising above limitations. The USA Games, with co-presenting partners Jersey Mike’s Subs and United Healthcare, will be one of the biggest U.S. sporting events of the year, drawing tens of thousands of fans to celebrate the ability of over 3,000 incredible athletes from all 50 states as they compete in 16 Olympic-type team and individual sports. As a state with a long history of championing inclusion, the USA Games now bring an unrivaled

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opportunity to Minnesota to spark new energy around the Special Olympics movement and create a lasting legacy of positive change.

### **About Special Olympics New Mexico**

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 (ID), 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 more than 3,700 athletes, offering training and competition in 11 sports. Special Olympics New Mexico is sponsored year-round and statewide by New Mexico True, Law Enforcement Torch Run, Chick-fil-A, Mountain States Constructors, Inc., French Funerals & Cremations, Legacy Church, Sunny Bunny, and Rudy's "Country Store and Bar-B-Q".

Learn more about Special Olympics New Mexico at: [sonm.org](https://sonm.org)