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30 Special Olympics New Mexico Athletes Head to Minnesota for the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games, June 20–26

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO, June 11, 2026: In just over a week, more than 3,000 athletes from across the country will come together to compete at the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games, taking place June 20–26, 2026, in Minnesota. This national celebration of sport and inclusion will unite athletes, coaches, families and fans from all 50 states. Special Olympics New Mexico is proud to share that it 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 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.

Note: Learn more and view the full delegation roster for Special Olympics New Mexico our website:

<https://sonm.org/about/nm-2026-so-usa-games/>

Here are some words from Team New Mexico athletes regarding what attending Special Olympics USA Games means to them:

“I’m looking forward to competing with the best athletes in the USA. When you play with the best you naturally get better, so attending the 2026 USA Games means my skill level will improve,” said Reed Gallinger, Team New Mexico basketball athlete.

“Attending USA Games means the world to me,” shared Desiree Hanson, Team New Mexico bocce athlete. “I am so excited to represent New Mexico and meet new people. I love to travel and Minneapolis sounds like an awesome place to go.”

Chris Dixon, Team New Mexico basketball athlete shared “It is such a big honor to get to represent my state, New Mexico, at USA Games. I hoped and prayed that someday I would get to go to USA Games, and I am beyond excited that I finally get to go!”

Media Opportunity: Help celebrate Team New Mexico athletes and delegation members at our ABQ Sunport airport send-off on Friday, June 19, beginning at 4:30 AM. This opportunity will be short, from approximately 4:30 AM–5 AM. Interested media are welcome to meet our delegation 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. Media alert to follow.



Visit 2026specialolympicsusagames.org and follow @SpecialOlympicsUSAGames on social media for the latest 2026 Special Olympics USA Games updates.

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 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

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