



MEDIA ALERT

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Special Olympics Colorado 2009 Winter Games Slated for March 29-30 at Copper Mountain Resort

DENVER, Colo. -- Copper Mountain Resort and Dobson Ice Arena in Vail will host the 31st Annual Special Olympics Colorado Winter Games Sunday-Monday, March 29-30. Nearly 400 Special Olympics Colorado athletes and Unified Sports® partners plus an additional 600 individuals (volunteers, coaches and family members) from around the state will converge upon these two sites for competition in six sports -- alpine skiing, cross country skiing, figure skating, snowboarding, snowshoeing and speed skating. Admission is open to the public and FREE of charge.

Who: Nearly 400 Special Olympics athletes and Unified Sports® partners, 110 coaches, 400 volunteers and 150 family members from across Colorado.

What: Special Olympics Colorado Winter Games is one of the program's signature state competitions. Athletes, coaches and Unified Sports® partners have dedicated the past few months to training and conditioning in the sports of alpine skiing, cross country skiing, figure skating, snowboarding, snowshoeing and speed skating to prepare for this state event - the culmination of the winter sports season.

When: Sunday-Monday, March 29-30

Sunday's Schedule

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Alpine Skiing, Cross Country Skiing, Snowboarding and Snowshoeing Competition (*complete schedule attached*)
5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. Athlete and Coach Dinner
7:15 p.m. - 8 p.m. Opening Ceremonies at Burning Stone Plaza
(*includes Copper Mountain Ski Patrol Flame Parade and Fireworks Display*)
8 p.m. - 10 p.m. Victory Celebration at Bighorn Ballroom (Copper Conference Center)

Monday's Schedule

8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Alpine Skiing, Cross Country Skiing, Figure Skating, Speed Skating, Snowboarding and Snowshoeing Competition (*complete schedule attached*)
1 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Closing Ceremonies at Bighorn Ballroom (Copper Conference Center)

Where: Copper Mountain Resort and Dobson Ice Arena (Vail)

Why: Each year hundreds of Special Olympics Colorado athletes across the state come together to showcase their athletic skills and celebrate the spirit of Special Olympics. The first Special Olympics Colorado Winter Games took place in 1978. The Winter Games allow Special Olympics Colorado to bring public attention to the talents and capabilities of people with intellectual disabilities, helping to change attitudes and break down barriers that have excluded them from the mainstream of the community. This year, athletes of all ability levels will compete in six different Olympic-type sports. The 2009 Special Olympics Colorado Winter Games will unite the state through sports, celebrating the abilities and accomplishments of people with intellectual disabilities.

If you are a **fan** of competition, then you are a **fan** of Special Olympics Colorado.