



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Two Colorado Athletes Head to Copper Mountain for Special Olympics World Games Team USA Training Camp

DENVER, Colo. -- Two Colorado athletes - **Brydie Charles (Aurora)** and **Josh Reynolds (Greeley)** - will be part of Team USA at the 2009 Special Olympics World Games Feb. 7-13 in Idaho. First, however, the tandem head to Copper Mountain along with their 355 teammates for a Team USA Training Camp Dec. 3-7.

Charles has competed in snowshoeing for eight years. This will be her first appearance at a World Games event. A Special Olympics Global Messenger, she also competes in aquatics, bowling, cycling and track & field. She credits participation in Special Olympics for teaching her team spirit and discipline. Attending the World Games has been a lifelong goal for the 21-year old multiple gold medalist.

Reynolds will also represent Team USA in snowshoeing, a sport he has participated in for just one year. This will be his first World Games appearance. A four-year participant in Special Olympics, he also competes in basketball, soccer and swimming. This past fall, Reynolds enhanced his training for the World Games by joining his high school's cross country team. The 13-year old credits Special Olympics for providing him opportunities to compete and meet people who accept him for who he is.

Two Special Olympics Colorado staff members will also represent the state as part of Team USA's management team. Jenny Sandvik, Mile High Area Manager, will serve as an assistant sports manager for snowshoeing. Rob Porreca, Programs Manager for SOCO, will be an assistant sports manager for alpine.

The upcoming training camp will be the first opportunity for representatives of Team USA -- comprised of 355 athletes, 85 coaches plus management team members -- to meet one another. The camp will offer a variety of coaches meetings and sport-specific training in alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, floor hockey, figure skating, snowboarding, snowshoe racing and speed skating.

Athletes and coaches will also participate in team building activities. Featured events for the camp include an Idaho Night, featuring information about the Games' host state. The training camp will be capped off Saturday evening with a dinner and recap of the events of training camp. Also during camp, athletes from Team USA will be fitted for their uniforms and have sport-specific photos taken.

The upcoming 2009 event marks the ninth Special Olympics World Winter Games. The World Games unite nearly 3,000 athletes from 100 countries for competition.

For more information on Team USA, visit www.specialolympicsteamusa.org or find additional World Games information at www.2009worldgames.org.

Since 1969, Special Olympics Colorado (SOCO) has been strengthening families, athletes and the very soul of our community through sports training and athletic competitions. Special Olympics Colorado provides year-round training and sponsors over 80 competitions at the area and state level in 20 sports for over 8,500 athletes statewide. With a base of more than 6,000 volunteers, hundreds of hours are donated allowing SOCO to support athletes of all ages and abilities, allowing them to build athletic, learning and social skills. Participation with other athletes, non-disabled peers (Unified Sports® partners), coaches, sponsors and volunteers builds confidence and creates opportunities to participate as productive and respected members of society by increasing public awareness of the athletes' capabilities. There is no cost to participate in Special Olympics.