



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Kathy Muffenbier
720.359.3124

Two Colorado Athletes Selected as Global Youth Ambassadors

DENVER, Colo. -- Cole Smith, a partner in the Unified Sports® program, and his brother, **Matt Smith**, a Special Olympics Colorado athlete, have been chosen as representatives of the United States at the Special Olympics Global Youth Activation Summit, which will be held in conjunction with the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Game Feb. 7-13 in Boise, Idaho. The boys were selected through a national essay contest entered and won by Cole.

Matt is 16 years old and has been involved in Special Olympics for nine years. He currently competes in basketball, bowling, track and field and power lifting, but has also participated in gymnastics and softball. Though he has supported Matt his whole life, Cole became a Unified Sports® partner in basketball six years ago. The 14-year old was honored earlier this year with a Qwest/FSN Rocky Mountain/University of Colorado "Winning Attitude Award" for his involvement in the Unified Sports® program. The boys are the sons of Toni and Richard Smith of Greeley.

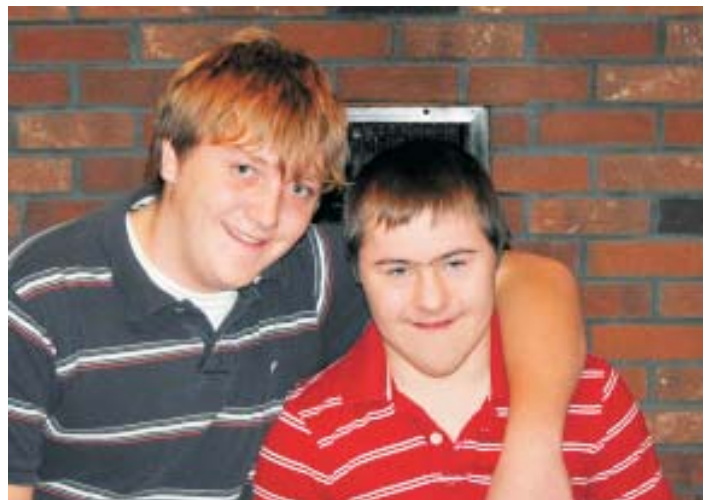
2009 Special Olympics Global Youth Activation Summit

Overview:

- A gathering for more than 130 young people with and without intellectual disabilities from around the world who are committed to making a difference in their schools and communities through Special Olympics.
- Youth Participants are ages 12-20 and represent 18 countries from the Special Olympics movement's seven regions.
- The summit will include conference session, leadership training programs, and interactive sports experiences. Participants also will act as journalists, publishing their stories and photos daily on the Special Olympics and 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games Web sites and social network sites.
- Students are paired together -- one Special Olympics athlete and a peer partner without an intellectual disability from the same community, state or country.
- The Summit will include a Global Youth Activation Rally gathering thousands of young people from the Boise, Idaho area and around the world in for an exciting, motivational multimedia event to address key issues young people face regarding intellectual disabilities and society.
- Summit participants and Youth Leaders will recruit and lead their peers worldwide to join the Be a Fan™ Campaign leading up to the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Athens, Greece.

Summit Goals:

The summit will provide a forum where youth participants will acquire and enhance their knowledge and the skills needed to activate youth around the world in an effort to promote school communities where all young people are agents of change - fostering respect, dignity and advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities, by utilizing the programs and initiatives of Special Olympics.



Cole and Matt Smith