



September 6, 2007

Dear Media Representative,

Enclosed please find information about **Special Olympics 2007 World Summer Games** coming up **October 2 – 11** in **Shanghai, China**. **Special Olympics Colorado** is pleased to announce that **eight athletes from our state's program** will be attending as part of Team USA. The athletes will depart Colorado on September 26 for this once in a lifetime journey. Below is a list of our athletes as well as their hometown and what sport they will be competing in the Games. ***Over the next two weeks, please consider the opportunity to highlight these local athletes and the games.*** We are more than willing to accommodate interviews either on site or on location. In addition, we have the Head of Delegation for Team USA (Claire Simmons with Special Olympics Colorado) as well as the Head Powerlifting Coach for Team USA (Chaka Sutton also with Special Olympics Colorado) available for interviews.

Please consider this story opportunity as a lead up to the 2008 Olympics and Paralympics Games. ***This is the first time in history that one city will host all three Olympic sanctioned events!***

**Special Olympics Colorado Athletes competing in the World Games:**

Bowling: Lorraine Grimm (Longmont), Bryan Terry (Aurora)

Aquatics: Rayme Allen (Denver), Sondra Pozner (Denver)

Athletics: Florence Westervelt (Denver), Kenneth Jones (Ft. Collins)

Bocce: Bill Malone Jr. (Centennial), Beth Pasterkamp (Englewood)

If you would like any additional information, please feel free to call or email me. Again, we would welcome the opportunity to have you interview these athletes or other local representatives between now and their departure on September 26. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terri Takata-Smith".

Terri Takata-Smith, Marketing Manager  
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enclosure



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 6, 2007

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**THE WORLD'S MOST INSPIRING SPORTING EVENT SET TO TAKE PLACE  
IN ONE OF CHINA'S MOST CAPTIVATING CITIES**

**SHANGHAI PREPARES TO HOST 2007 SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD SUMMER GAMES**

**Shanghai, People's Republic of China** – In less than a month, Shanghai will welcome more than 7,000 Special Olympics athletes representing 169 countries to its city when it hosts the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games. From 2 – 11 October, the world's most inspiring athletes will compete in 23 different Olympic-type sports at many of Shanghai's world renown venues. **Special Olympics Colorado will send eight athletes** to participate in the global competition.

The eight athletes from **Colorado** joining Team USA are as follows:

Bowling: Lorraine Grimm (Longmont), Bryan Terry (Aurora)  
Aquatics: Rayme Allen (Denver), Sondra Pozner (Denver)  
Athletics: Florence Westervelt (Denver), Kenneth Jones (Ft. Collins)  
Bocce: Bill Malone Jr. (Centennial), Beth Pasterkamp (Englewood)

The 12<sup>th</sup> Special Olympics Summer Games will be the first major multi-sport competition to take place in China with the 2008 Olympics and Paralympics Games following the next summer in Beijing. The 2007 World Summer Games will be the largest event in Special Olympics history bringing together international celebrities, dignitaries, heads of state, and leaders in the fields of education, health care, business and sports all in support of Special Olympics. Tens of thousands of families, friends, volunteers and spectators are expected to travel from every continent across the globe supporting Special Olympics athletes as they compete and celebrate the spirit of sportsmanship.

"The upcoming Special Olympics World Summer Games to be held in Shanghai next year will not only be a spectacular event, but a historic one offering the Movement a world stage to showcase the abilities and accomplishments of people with intellectual disabilities, and fostering a new global vision of acceptance," said Special Olympics Chairman and CEO Timothy Shriver. "Our eight athletes who will represent the state as part of Team USA will make Coloradoans proud as they demonstrate their talents, sportsmanship, and determination for all the world to see," said Mindy Watrous, President & CEO of Special Olympics Colorado. "The entire Special Olympics Colorado community is extremely proud of our athletes in their pursuit of excellence at the 2007 Games in China."

The theme of the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games is "I Know I Can" celebrating the true spirit, essence and determination of the Special Olympics athlete. In addition to competitions, the World Games also will feature a series of events aimed at transforming communities and the lives of the 190 million people worldwide with intellectual disabilities by promoting understanding, acceptance and inclusion.

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Among the highlights are: a Global Youth Summit, a forum for representative young people to interact with their peers across the globe and share ideas for involving youth in the Special Olympics movement; the Special Olympics Healthy Athletes® initiative, in which athletes receive free health assessments and services; and a symposium to bring awareness and discussion of issues relevant to people with intellectual disabilities.

For more information about the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games, visit [www.2007specialolympics.com](http://www.2007specialolympics.com).

### ***About Special Olympics Colorado***

Special Olympics Colorado (SOCO) strives to change lives by promoting understanding, acceptance and inclusion between people with and without intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics believes that through sports training and competition, people with intellectual disabilities benefit physically, mentally, and socially; families are strengthened; and the community at large, both through participation and observation, is united in understanding people with intellectual disabilities in an environment of equality, respect and acceptance. Through year-round sports training and athletic competitions as well as other related programming for over 8,500 children and adults (ages 8 and up) with intellectual disabilities across Colorado, SOCO has created a model community that celebrates people's diverse gifts. Special Olympics Colorado provides people with intellectual disabilities continuing opportunities to realize their potential, develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage and experience joy and friendship. There is no cost to participate in Special Olympics Colorado. The fundamental difference that sets Special Olympics competitions apart from those of other sports organizations is that athletes of all ability levels are encouraged to participate, and every athlete is recognized for his or her performance. Competitions are structured so that athletes compete with other athletes of similar ability in equitable divisions. **For more information contact Terri Takata-Smith, Marketing Manager at (720)359-3115 / [tts@specialolympicsco.org](mailto:tts@specialolympicsco.org) or visit [www.specialolympicsco.org](http://www.specialolympicsco.org).**

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## **2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games Fact Sheet**

Special Olympics, a global leader in intellectual disability, will hold the world's largest sporting event in 2007. The 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games will unite the world through sports, celebrating the abilities and accomplishments of people with intellectual disabilities and forming a new global vision of acceptance.

**When:** 2-11 October 2007

**Participants:** More than 7,000 athletes from 169 countries  
40,000 volunteers  
3,500 event officials  
Thousands of families, friends, spectators and journalists from every continent

**Where:** The People's Republic of China, in the city of Shanghai

**Vision:** Embrace the diversity of all individuals' abilities worldwide and celebrate all differences. Through these World Games, Special Olympics athletes transcend the boundaries of geography, nationality, political philosophy, gender, age, culture and religion. It is the common pursuit of achievement, the shared moment of victory, which brings even the most diverse people together. This spirit of unity on the playing fields, in families and communities throughout the world makes for a better way of life for all. Special Olympics celebrates the fundamental commonality of all people. Together, we can learn to accept each other, and this will allow us all to contribute to society and to the world we all share.

**Sports & Venues:** Special Olympics athletes of all ability levels will compete in 23 different Olympic-type sports at the following venues:

Aquatics	Shanghai Pudong Natatorium
Athletics	Shanghai Stadium
Badminton	Baoshan Gymnasium
Basketball	Luwan Gymnasium, Gyms at Shanghai Stadium
Bocce	Jiading Stadium
Bowling	Gaodian Bowling Center
Cricket	Fengxian District Sports Complex
Cycling	Fengxian District
Dragon Boat Racing	Shanghai Water Sports Center
Equestrian	Shanghai Equestrian Field
Football (Soccer)	Songjiang District
Golf	Tianma Country Club
Gymnastics	Shanghai International Gymnastics Center
Handball	Fudan University & Yangpu District Stadium
Judo	Sports Center of Nanhui District
Kayaking	Shanghai Water Sports Center
Powerlifting	Zhabei Gymnasium
Roller Skating	Jinshan District Roller Skating Center, Roller Skating Gymnasium
Sailing	Shanghai Water Sports Center
Softball	Kangbei Softball Centre
Table Tennis	Minghang Gymnasium
Tennis	Qi Zhong Tennis Center
Volleyball	Shanghai Sports Palace (3 courts), Jinyuan Senior High School - 1 court, East China Normal University (4 courts)
MATP (Motor Activity Training Program)	Jingan Gymnasium



## **2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games Fact Sheet con.**

### **SPECIAL EVENTS:**

The first-ever **Global Law Enforcement Torch Run Final Leg** will begin with the ignition of the “Flame of Hope” and the lighting of the torch in Athens, Greece. The torch will travel around the globe to more than 10 cities to celebrate the 2007 World Games and showcase Chinese culture. Law enforcement officers from around the world will serve as Guardians of the Flame as they journey to Shanghai, China, to safely deliver the “Flame of Hope” to the 2007 World Games Opening Ceremonies.

**Host Town Program** – Delegations from around the world will be hosted throughout China prior to their arrival in Shanghai for the Games. For four days before Opening Ceremonies, the Host Town experience gives Special Olympics athletes a chance to learn more about Chinese culture and acclimate to a new environment, and also helps citizens of China learn more about people with intellectual disabilities.

**Research Symposium** - Review of groundbreaking studies by the China National Institute for Educational Research and the University of Massachusetts Boston. Studies will reveal key findings in the area of intellectual disabilities, as well as highlights on subjects ranging from health and fitness to attitude change to the impact of the Special Olympics movement.

**Opening Ceremonies** - An exciting and entertaining show to open the World Games. Produced by award-winning producer/director Don Mischer, this spectacular event will take place on 2 October in the 80,000-seat Shanghai Stadium and will include star-studded entertainment, the Parade of Athletes and the culmination of the Final Leg of the Law Enforcement Torch Run and lighting of the Special Olympics cauldron.

**Global Youth Summit** - An assembly bringing youth with and without intellectual disabilities together for inspiring and educational discussions. The inaugural summit took place in 2001 at the World Winter Games in Anchorage, Alaska (USA), and was aired on Nickelodeon television (Nick News). The second Global Youth Summit, held in Dublin, Ireland, as part of the 2003 World Summer Games, attracted Nelson Mandela and stars Colin Farrell and Maria Shriver. The show aired on MTV in the United Kingdom. The 2005 Global Youth Summit at the World Games in Nagano, Japan, included more than 300 Japanese youth and attracted former U.S. President Bill Clinton; the show aired on Japanese national television.

**Family Forum** - An activity tailored for family members of Special Olympics athletes to enable them to learn more about the opportunities available with Special Olympics, and to provide a network of friends and supporters.

**Closing Ceremonies** - An event to celebrate the accomplishments of the athletes and officially close the Games.

**Healthy Athletes® Screenings** – Volunteer medical professionals will provide competing athletes a variety of free health assessments, including vision, dental, audiology and physical therapy. Past Healthy Athletes screenings have changed the lives of many athletes, discovering serious untreated health issues.

For more information about

Special Olympics 2007 World Summer Games visit: [www.2007specialolympics.com](http://www.2007specialolympics.com)

Team USA visit: [www.specialolympicsteamusa.org](http://www.specialolympicsteamusa.org)

Special Olympics Colorado visit: [www.specialolympicsco.org](http://www.specialolympicsco.org)