



Special Olympics Colorado Newsletter

Colorado Delegation Heads to World Games

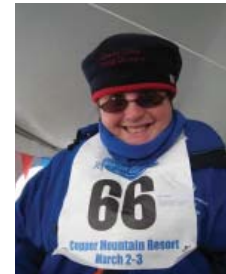
Two Colorado athletes -- Brydie Charles (Aurora) and Josh Reynolds (Greeley) -- will be part of Team USA at the 2009 Special Olympics World Games Feb. 7-13 in Boise, Idaho. The World Winter Games will be held in communities and venues throughout Idaho and will include up to 3,000 athletes from more than 100 countries with the assistance of 6,000 volunteers. Competition will take place in seven winter sports -- Alpine Skiing, Cross-Country Skiing, Figure Skating, Floor Hockey, Snowboarding, Snowshoeing and Speed Skating. Both Charles and Reynolds will compete in snowshoeing.

Two Special Olympics Colorado staff members will also represent the state as part of Team USA's management team. Jenny McVoy, 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.

All four Colorado representatives participated in a Team USA Training Camp in early December at Copper Mountain. The camp provided the first opportunity for representatives of Team USA -- comprised of 355 athletes, 85 coaches plus management team members -- to meet, while providing a variety of coaches meetings and sport-specific training in the seven winter sports that comprise the World Games. For photos or more information on the training camp, go to the Team USA web site.

Brydie is a 21 year old athlete who has competed in snowshoeing for eight years. This will be her first appearance at a World Games. A Global Messenger, she also competes in aquatics, bowling, cycling and track and field. Brydie has captured gold medals in swimming, cycling, bowling and snowshoeing. She joined Special Olympics to meet people, make new friends, travel to events and see new places. She credits her participation in Special Olympics for teaching her team spirit and discipline. Brydie's hobbies include painting stain glass ornaments. Attending the World Games has been a lifelong goal, and she is proud to represent Team USA.

Josh is a 13 year old athlete in his first year of competition in snowshoeing. This will be his first World Games appearance. He has enhanced his preparation and training by joining his high school's cross country team. He has been involved in Special Olympics for four years. In addition to snowshoeing, Josh competes in basketball, soccer and swimming. He pushes himself to become better at his events in hopes of winning gold medals. He credits Special Olympics for providing him opportunities to compete and meet new people who accept him for who he is. Josh, whose hobbies include game cube and bike riding, believes the World Games will give him the chance to do his best and meet new people.



Brydie Charles



Josh Reynolds



Jenny McVoy



Rob Porreca

www.specialolympicsteamusa.org

www.2009worldgames.org

Two Colorado Athletes Selected as Global Youth Ambassadors

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 Games 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. 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.

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



Special Olympics Colorado

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Mandi DeWitt Volunteer and Family Coordinator/ Young Athletes Program Manager	Forrest Phillips Northeast Area Manager
Lisa Dugger Volunteer & Family Program Asst.	Rob Porreca Programs Manager
Julie Fite Western/Southwest Area Manager	Melissa Stokes Office Assistant
Georgeann Kulton Southeast Area Manager	Sarah Traut Law Enforcement Torch Run/ Special Events Manager
Jenny McVoy Mile High Area Manager	

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Fax: 303.592.1364

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Phone: 970.945-0395
State Office: 800.777.5767
Fax: 970.945-0395

A Note from the President

Greetings!

It's hard to believe we are already in the second month of 2009. As a new year unfolds, great things continue to happen for our Special Olympics Colorado athletes. First and foremost, congratulations to athletes Brydie Charles and Josh Reynolds, as well as staff members Jenny McVoy and Rob Porreca, who are currently in Boise, Idaho, representing Colorado as members of Team USA at the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games. We are very proud of these individuals and wish them a great experience.



I started off this year visiting various sites to observe our new Young Athletes program, designed specifically for 2 ½ to 7 year olds. We are partnering with the Cherry Creek School District in the implementation of the program. So far, 200 Young Athletes and their Unified Sports Partners are jumping, kicking and playing their way to increased gross motor and socialization skills. We plan to continue our expansion of this vital program throughout the state as funding allows.

The new year promises to be both challenging and exciting. There is increased concern throughout the state and the nation about the economy and how it will affect non-profits like SOCO. As one of only about six percent of non-profits which raises every dollar for programming in the community, we are truly a unique organization. We do not receive federal, state or county funding nor do we charge our athletes a fee for service. We have reduced our revenue from fundraising in our 2009 budget without significantly impacting our programs and competitions, although some of the things many have come to expect may not be provided, such as meals, lodging and travel. Nevertheless, we will maintain our standard of high quality training and competition, but we will all have to be flexible as we work to insure the long term viability of our programs serving nearly 10,000 athletes statewide.

We have moved full speed ahead into our winter season with competitions planned around the state, culminating with our State Winter Games at Copper Mountain March 29-30.

We will be holding our Red Robin Tip-A-Cop at all 25 Red Robin restaurants around the state April 18. Please support our LETR officers and our entire organization by enjoying a meal at your local Red Robin on April 18! Last year, over \$76,000 was raised in the one-day event, and we're planning to smash that record in 2009!

I'd like to welcome the newest members of our Board of Directors: Bryan Terry, SOCO athlete, Lew Sapiro, Larry Smisek from US Foods, Amy Turner from FSN Rocky Mountain, and Mark Ulrich from Lockton Companies. I'd like to thank Dr. Mike Fenoglio, Lynette Soles and Carrie Bannister for their service as they rotate off the Board. Last but not least, congratulations to Pat Lovett, Dr. Scott Primack, Kelly Hanratty and Tim Griggs who have received lifetime Emeritus status for their commitment to our athletes and programs.

Thanks to each of you for your support and generosity. We couldn't accomplish what we do without the tremendous support of you, our dedicated volunteers, family members, athletes and donors. We will continue to move forward with determination and commitment to support our athletes!

Sincerely,

Mindy Watrous
President & CEO of Special Olympics Colorado

Young Athletes Program Underway in Colorado

Special Olympics Colorado has partnered with the Cherry Creek School District to introduce a new program called Young Athletes™ (YAP). The program is designed to introduce children with intellectual disabilities and their non-disabled peers, ages 2 ½ through 7, to the world of sports.

Since its inception in 1968, Special Olympics has established itself as a preeminent global organization offering sports training and competition opportunities to people with intellectual disabilities ages eight and above.

Over the years, families of children too young to compete looked for avenues to join the movement. Special Olympics can now welcome these future athletes and families through Young Athletes, a developmentally appropriate play program designed to foster physical, cognitive, and social development.

YAP welcomes family members of children with intellectual disabilities to the Special Olympics network of support, while raising awareness about the abilities of children with disabilities through inclusive peer participation, demonstrations and other events.

Some of the activities utilized in Young Athletes are foundational skills, walking and running, balancing and jumping, trapping and catching, throwing, striking, kicking plus advanced skills.

According to Mandi DeWitt, Young Athlete Program Manager for SOCO, nearly 300 preschoolers are participating at five different pre-schools since the YAP was launched late last year.

For more information on the Young Athletes program, contact DeWitt at mmd@specialolympicsco.org or visit www.specialolympicsco.org.



SOCO Turns FORTY

Special Olympics Colorado celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2009. SOCO held its first event -- Summer Games -- at Aurora Hinkley High School in 1969. Four hundred athletes participated in the one-day track and field competition. Today the organization serves nearly 10,000 athletes with a volunteer base of over 6,000 and provides opportunities to train and compete in 20 Olympic-type sports year-round with more than 80 competitions throughout the year.

40

Happy Anniversary to US!



Nuggets Host Annual Basketball Clinic for Special Olympics Colorado Athletes

Nearly 150 Special Olympics Colorado athletes were recent guests of the Denver Nuggets for a basketball skills clinic. The event took place Jan. 6 at the Pepsi Center, the home court of the Nuggets. This is the sixth-successive year the Nuggets' staff and players have volunteered their time to host the event. This year's clinic was sponsored, once again, by Kroenke Sports Enterprises and Comfort Dental.

The 90-minute clinic included rotating stations with instruction on conditioning, passing, dribbling, defense and shooting drills compliments of the entire Nuggets' coaching staff and roster of players. The Denver Nuggets organization is the ONLY one in the National Basketball Association that does an all-player/all coaches clinic for Special Olympics. According to Deb Dowling Canino, Vice President of Community Relations and Fan Development for Kroenke Sports Enterprises, the clinic for Special Olympics Colorado is the only mandatory team appearance required each year for the Nuggets and is considered a favorite among staff and players.

"We give these special athletes our time and, in return, they give us their spirit," said fifth-year Nuggets' head coach George Karl after the event. "The NBA does a great deal with Special Olympics. Our organization is very proud of its relationship with Special Olympics Colorado."

"This is a fantastic opportunity for our athletes to meet some of their favorite professional basketball players and interact with them in a way that leaves a lasting impression," Mindy Watrous, President & CEO of Special Olympics Colorado remarked. "What better way to improve their basketball skills then by learning from the Denver Nuggets! The players are true pros on and off the court -- providing a wonderful opportunity for our Special Olympics athletes to showcase their tremendous abilities, rather than their disabilities. Year after year, our athletes have the time of their lives during this clinic. We are extremely grateful to the Denver Nuggets and Kroenke Sports for this opportunity and to Comfort Dental for their sponsorship of the event."

Special Olympics Colorado Annual State Sponsors



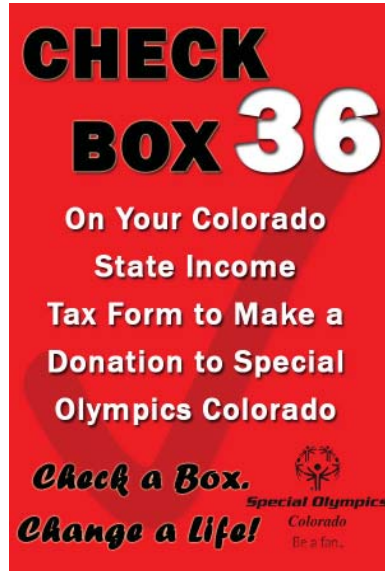
Remember Special Olympics Colorado When You File Your Taxes

One in five of us will face a disability in our lifetime. Special Olympics Colorado addresses the needs and challenges of children and adults with intellectual disabilities in Colorado. You can help support the cause by donating on your 2008 Colorado State Tax Form.

Special Olympics Colorado is one of 15 non-profit organizations included in the state's Tax Checkoff Campaign. Through the Checkoff, taxpayers can make voluntary contributions to SOCO when they file their state income tax returns.

Over the past 10 years, Coloradans have been extremely generous in remembering our athletes and making anonymous (tax deductible) donations through the fund. The money Special Olympics Colorado receives through the Checkoff goes to purchase equipment, uniforms and transportation services as well as fund training expenses and year round competitions -- all for our athletes in Colorado.

Join us in fostering lives of dignity and independence. Provide a gift to Special Olympics Colorado. No amount is too small and EVERY dollar counts. Go to the last page of your 2008 State Income Tax Form -- or tell your tax preparer to do so -- and check box 36. It's easy, it's anonymous.



Check a box. Change a life.

Colorado AvidGolfer to Donate Proceeds to Special Olympics Colorado

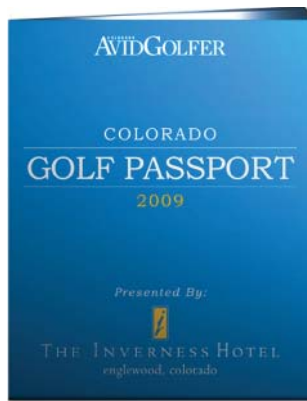
Colorado AvidGolfer magazine will donate \$8 to Special Olympics Colorado from each Golf Passport sold through friends, family and co-workers of SOCO. The Golf Passport is a golf discount book for \$79.95 that offers discounts at 50 of Colorado's best courses, including exclusive offers at The Inverness, The Ridge, Vista Ridge, Green Valley Ranch, Arrowhead and The Raven. You also receive a free dozen Bridgestone golf balls for purchasing the Golf Passport. In order to make sure Special Olympics gets the donation, go to www.coloradoavidgolfer.com/passport and enter the promo code SPEC09 when ordering. Below are details on the 2009 Golf Passport.

2009 Golf Passport:

- Save more than \$5,000 at Colorado's 50 best courses!
- More exclusive and weekend offers
- More new courses
- Fewer restrictions
- All offers include a cart
- Weekend offers from 30 golf courses
- New courses include Headwaters, Four Mile Ranch, Signature and Antler Creek
- Exclusive offers from Inverness Golf Club, The Ridge at Castle Pines North, Green Valley Ranch, Vista Ridge, Arrowhead, Raven and 27 others

Member Benefits Include:

- FREE one-year subscription to *Colorado AvidGolfer* (\$18 value)
- New courses include Headwaters, Four Mile Ranch, Signature and Antler Creek
- FREE dozen Bridgestone golf balls (\$40 value)
- FREE Dimension Z wedge (\$135 value; S&H not included)
- \$25 gift certificate to Cool River Café
- \$25 gift card to The Inverness Hotel



2009 - The Year of Mobile Giving

Special Olympics Colorado, together with Denver-based Mobile Accord, Inc., is taking a leadership role in the move to incorporate mobile technology into the world of philanthropy with the launch of a new program designed to capture donations via text message. The goal of Special Olympics Colorado is to reach out and enhance its fundraising efforts through a popular channel utilized by a vast majority of the nation's population.

There are currently 240 million mobile subscribers who send 30 billion text messages per month across the country. Special Olympics Colorado is the one of the first non-profits in the United States to embrace the mobile giving channel, allowing donors to connect with our organization and contribute funds through text messaging.

Cell phone users can instantly react to fundraising appeals and confirm their donation by simply sending two text messages. The donation is charged to the donor's regular monthly cell phone bill and is separated from other transactions and identified as a nontaxable donation. This service is available on most carriers and standard text messaging rates apply.

How do you get started? Simply text the word **FAN** to the number **90999** to give **\$5**. You will get a message back asking to confirm your text message. Reply to this message with the word **YES** and a **\$5.00** donation to Special Olympics Colorado will be added to your wireless bill. Maximum donations are four per mobile phone per month.

Please join the "text message" generation and make a donation to Special Olympics Colorado. **Tell your family and friends to do the same and text FAN to 90999 to give \$5 now!**

A one-time charge of \$5 will be added to your mobile phone bill. Standard messaging rates and additional fees may apply. All charges are billed by and payable to your mobile service provider. Proceeds benefit Special Olympics Colorado and are collected by the MGF. Service is available on most carriers. You can unsubscribe at any time by texting STOP to 90999. For full terms visit mgive.com/a.

Text FAN to 90999 and support the nearly 10,000 athletes of Special Olympics Colorado!

The G-Word

Special Olympics Colorado plans to join the waves of people already doing so and go **GREEN**. Why? Because it is environmentally and socially responsible to do so. Every single thing we do each day has an impact on the planet.

How do we go about doing it? We significantly decrease the amount of paper we use and trees we lose by utilizing electronic and internet technology to communicate messages and information.

Our goal is to be "print free" with regard to newsletters, press releases and informational packets by the end of 2009.

Change is never easy, but in this case we save trees and, just as importantly, money that should and could be going to our athletes and competitions. We hope you will understand and support our goal. **Remember, it's cool to be GREEN!!!**

If you have changed e-mail addresses or would like to provide one to ensure you receive these materials, please e-mail Laura Motooka at Irm@specialolympicsco.org.

Spotlight



**Rick "Worm" Charbonneau
Volunteer**

Name: Rick "Worm" Charbonneau
Birthday: March 17, 1957
Residence: Littleton, Colo.
Family: Wife Sara, daughter Katie (senior at Doane College), son Charlie (freshman at UNC Greeley)
Profession: Circulation Manager for Denver Newspaper Agency
Involvement with SOCO: Volunteer
Length of Involvement with SOCO: 7 years
Favorite SOCO Moment: Former Colorado State Trooper Sam Trujillo bringing in the (LETR) torch to Summer Games in Greeley
The one word that comes to mind when I hear "Special Olympics" is: Friendships
Favorite Color: Blue
Favorite Food: Yes!!!
Favorite Drink: Sonic Route 44 Lemon Berry Slush
Favorite Movie/TV Show: Dog Whisperer
Favorite Music/Artist: Carin Mari and Pony Express (family band from Buena Vista, CO)
Favorite Sport: Special Olympics
Hobbies: Fishing
Most Memorable Vacation: circle in Colorado through Durango, CO
If I could meet one famous person, it would be: Sacajawea

Spotlight



**Georgeann Kulton
Staff**

Name: Georgeann Kulton
Birthday: April 13, 1967
Residence: Colorado Springs, Colo.
Family: Sisters Barb and Patty
Profession: Southeast Area Manager for SOCO
Involvement with Special Olympics: Coach for five years and Area Manager for 15 years
Length of Involvement with SO: 20 1/2 years -- 20 in Illinois and six months in Colorado
Favorite SO Moment: My first state summer games as a coach in Illinois
The one word that comes to mind when I hear "Special Olympics" is: Achievement
Favorite Color: Purple/blue
Favorite Food: Mexican, Italian, German
Favorite Movie/TV Show: Dances with Wolves, Patch, Survivor, HGTV Channel
Favorite Music/Artist: 70's and 80s, blues, jazz, classical, Rolling Stones, Bruce Springsteen
Favorite Sport: College basketball & football
Hobbies: Gardening, antique shopping
Most Memorable Vacation: Germany 1975
If I could meet one famous person, it would be: Maya Angelou
On my day off, you are most likely to find me: Working in the yard, exploring my new surroundings, shopping or chillin' with my sisters
If I could do one thing to change the world, it would be: SMILE or LAUGH! It's contagious!

Spotlight



**Josh Reynolds
Athlete**

Name: Joshua Dakota Reynolds
Birthday: August 26, 1995
Residence: Greeley, Colo.
Family: Dad Brian, Mom Michele, brothers Justin, Jason and Luke, dog Kiki
School: Brentwood Middle School
Involvement with SOCO: Athlete
Length of Involvement with SOCO: 4 years
Favorite SOCO Moment: When I got selected to go to the 2009 Winter World Games!
The one word that comes to mind when I hear "Special Olympics" is: Fun
Favorite Color: Green
Favorite Food: Summer Salad
Favorite Drink: Sprite
Favorite Movie/TV Show: StarGate
Favorite Music/Artist: Lincoln Brewster
Favorite Sport: Basketball
Hobbies: Rockets
Most Memorable Vacation: Yellowstone
If I could meet one famous person, it would be: Lincoln Brewster
On my day off, you are most likely to find me . . . : Watching television downstairs
If I could do one thing to change the world, it would be: Having God put back into the school

State Games Around the Corner

State Basketball Tournament

Saturday, March 7
at Gold Crown Field House in Lakewood

40 Teams • 80 Coaches
50 Volunteers • 200 Family Members

COMPETITIONS INCLUDE:
Special Olympics Team Play
Unified Sports® Team Play
Individual Skills Competition

To volunteer, please call:
Mandi DeWitt at 720-359-3117

For additional information,
call Rob Porreca at 720-359-3113
or go to www.specialolympicsco.org



State Winter Games

Sunday-Monday, March 29-30

at Copper Mountain Resort
and Dobson Arena in Vail

450 Athletes and Unified Sports® partners

COMPETITIONS INCLUDE:
Alpine Skiing, Cross Country Skiing,
Figure Skating, Snowboarding,
Snowshoeing and Speedskating

To volunteer, please call:
Mandi DeWitt at 720-359-3117

For additional information,
call Rob Porreca at 720-359-3113



Mark Your Calendars!!!!

March 21 -- SOCO Night with the 14ers

- Broomfield Event Center
- Free tickets for athletes
- Reduced tickets for families, donors, volunteers

April 18 -- Tip-A-Cop Statewide at Red Robins

June 6-7 -- State Summer Games

- UNC-Greeley
- 900 athletes and Unified Sports® partners,
- 200 coaches, 500 volunteers, 300 family members
- Aquatics,
- Athletics (track & field)
- Gymnastics,
- Powerlifting
- Soccer

June 8 -- First Bank Denver Golf Tournament

- Pinehurst Country Club

**For a complete schedule, go to
www.specialolympicsco.org**

Be a fan of **UNITY.**TM

Make a charitable tax contribution.

One in five of us will face a disability in our lifetime. Your contribution will help your Colorado chapter of Special Olympics serve and enhance the lives of 10,000-plus Special Olympics athletes throughout the state of Colorado.

It's easy and you remain anonymous.

With tax season approaching:

- Donate to your Colorado Special Olympics on your State Income Tax Form by checking box 36, **OR**
- Tell your tax preparer you want to make a contribution



For more information contact:
Special Olympics Colorado at **800.777.5767**

CHECK BOX 36 The Special Olympics Colorado Fund

www.specialolympicsco.org

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