



## 2009 SUMMER GAMES INFORMATION

### About Summer Games

The University of Davis, California will host the 2009 Special Olympics Northern California Summer Games. More than 700 Special Olympics athletes from Northern California will compete in: aquatics, bocce, tennis and track & field. Competition will take place the weekend of June 26-28 on the University of California, Davis campus. The bocce competition will take place at the Martinez Waterfront Park Bocce Courts.

Opening Ceremonies begins with the traditional parade of athletes. Athletes and their coaches will be welcomed into Aggie Stadium by the "Wall of Honor" consisting of Law Enforcement personnel from all over Northern California. The performances will follow our traditional parade of athletes and the lighting of the Special Olympics Cauldron, signaling the beginning of the games. Bay Area KTVU Reporter and Special Olympics Board member John Sasaki and athletes will emcee the event. Competition will be held Saturday and Sunday. The public is invited and admission is FREE to all events.

### Athletes Participating in Each Summer Game Sport

Aquatics	213
Bocce	94
Tennis	43
Track/Field	381
TOTAL	731

### Special Olympics Northern California (SONC)

Special Olympics Northern California is a free year-round sports training and competition program for children and adults with developmental disabilities. More than 13,000 athletes compete in 170 competitions throughout the region in 15 sports. This requires the extraordinary support and time of 12,700 volunteers and more than 4,600 volunteer coaches. Programs are free to all eligible athletes. Financial support comes almost exclusively from individuals, organizations, corporations, and foundations.

### SUMMER GAMES HISTORY in Northern California

In 1995, the University of California at Berkeley hosted the first Special Olympics Summer Games in Northern California. After two years, the Games were relocated to Stockton while the aquatics, sports complex and Haas Pavilion were renovated. Special Olympics returned to UC-Berkeley for competition from 2006-2008. This year the Summer Games moved to UC Davis, a 5,300-acre campus that boasts a student enrollment of 30,000-plus and is home to four colleges and five professional schools. Northern California is one of 52 Special Olympic programs that provides a Summer Games competition for its athletes.



## **About our Athletes**

Words like, dignity, dedication and perseverance will take on a whole new meaning as you watch the athletes of Special Olympics Northern California compete at the Summer Games. Our athletes may be diagnosed with having a developmental disability such as Down syndrome, cerebral palsy or autism, but it certainly does not define who they are. Come watch our athletes compete. It won't be long before you notice their disabilities fade into the background, and you share their joy in the competition, friendships and accomplishments.

Whether it be the 10-meter assisted walk or the pentathlon, each athlete has risen to the challenge to be the best that they can be. Come be inspired by the competition and realize the strength, courage and tenacity of the human spirit.

## **Qualifying for the Games – How Does it Work?**

About 750 of our 13,374 Northern California athletes will be participating in the four sports featured at Summer Games in 2009.

Many other Northern California athletes will participate and qualify for similar championship-level play for basketball, softball, long distance running/walking, golf and bowling at other times of the year.

To qualify for the Summer Games, athletes train for 6-8 weeks in their sport and must participate in a regional competition which takes place throughout Northern California in April and May. Each area is given an allotment for Summer Games based on the number of athletes they have in training. In cases where an area has more athletes who qualify than they have allotments, a random draw is held to select the athletes to participate in the Summer Games.

## **About Our Volunteers**

Athletes are why we exist. Volunteers are how we exist. Our volunteers and coaches come from all walks of life. Some have been around for years, coaching our athletes and forming deep friendships. Others come out to help at a competition as time and schedule permits. No matter what capacity they serve, volunteers are the backbone of our program.

Currently more than 9,000 people in Northern California have discovered the rewards of working with a Special Olympics athlete. At Summer Games, more than 300 coaches will accompany our athletes and be with them for the duration of the weekend. Another 1,300 individuals will come out to help at one of the five venues hosting a competition.



## The Torch Run

More than 500 law enforcement personnel from federal, military, state, county and local agencies will run the Special Olympics *Flame of Hope*™ through Northern California from June 18 through June 26. The event is part of the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run®, a year-round fundraising campaign that culminates at the Special Olympics Northern California Summer Games, June 26–28 at UC Davis. The Games officially begin after the final leg of the Torch Run has been completed and the *Flame of Hope*™ lights the Special Olympics caldron during Opening Ceremonies.

As one of the state's largest grassroots fundraising efforts, the Law Enforcement Torch Run® has become the single largest supporter of Special Olympics Northern California. Since 1995, Northern California law enforcement has raised \$7.7 million with the goal to raise \$850,000 more in 2009. Every officer running the torch has earned the right to be a "Guardian of the Flame" by raising funds and awareness for Special Olympics.

This year's Law Enforcement Torch Run® began in Monterey County on Thursday, June 18. Throughout the week of June 22 the *Flame of Hope*™ will travel an estimated 700 plus miles throughout 13 counties arriving at UC Davis on Friday, June 26 for the opening of the Summer Games.

The final bearer of the torch runs towards the caldron and uses the torch to start the flame in the stadium. It is considered a great honor to light the Olympic Flame. After being lit, the flame continues to burn throughout the celebration of the Special Olympics until it is extinguished at the end of the closing ceremony of the Games.



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Friday, June 26

- 10:30 am Final leg of the Torch Run to State Capitol Building for press conference on North Steps, continuing through West Sacramento and Woodlands to final destination at **Aggie Stadium at UC Davis**
- 7:30pm - 9:30pm Opening Ceremonies, Wall of Honor, Lighting of Torch

### Saturday, June 27

- 9:00am – 10:30 am Reach for the Gold 5K Walk/Run
- 9:00am - 5:00pm Track & Field at UC Davis (Toomey Field)
- 10:30am - 3:00pm Bocce at Martinez Waterfront Park - Bocce Courts
- 9:00am - 4:00pm Tennis at UC Davis (Marya Welch Tennis Center)
- 9:00am - 4:00pm Aquatics at UC Davis (Schaal Aquatics Center)
- 12:00pm - 8:00pm Olympic Village at UC Davis (Freeborn Hall)

### Sunday, June 28

- 8:00am - 2:30pm Track & Field at UC Davis (Toomey Field)
- 9:00am – 1:30pm Tennis at UC Davis (Marya Welch Tennis Center)
- 10:00am – 1:00pm Bocce at Martinez Waterfront Park - Bocce Courts
- 9:00am - 2:30pm Aquatics at UC Davis (Schaal Aquatics Center)
- 11:00am - 3:00pm Olympic Village at UC Davis (Freeborn Hall)
- 2:30pm Summer Games Conclude



## SUMMER GAMES FACTS

Items	Description
Summer Games in Northern California	14th year
Sports/Events	4/63
Athletes	750
Delegations*	29 representing 32 Northern California counties
Largest Delegation	Fresno
Delegation traveling the furthest distance	Fresno County
Volunteer Coaches	300 +
Volunteers	1,300 +
Companies w/employee volunteers	8
Awards	2,159
Meals served	9,400
Law Enforcement Torch Runners	500 +
Miles the torch travels to Davis destination	738
Host broadcaster	Comcast Sports Network

**\*see next page for delegation listing**



## SUMMER GAMES 2009 DELEGATION LISTING

DELEGATIONS	AQUATICS	BOCCE	TENNIS	TRACK&FIELD	TOTAL
Alameda	10	13	2	33	61
Butte	6	0	0	5	12
Calaveras	0	0	0	4	4
Contra Costa	25	4	6	38	73
El Dorado	6	8	0	0	14
Fresno	25	10	3	75	113
Lake	0	0	0	6	6
Madera	2	0	0	0	2
Mariposa	0	0	0	4	6
Marin	8	4	6	3	23
Mendocino Coast	4	0	0	0	4
Merced	0	0	0	5	5
Monterey	10	4	0	9	23
Napa	8	4	0	8	20
Placer/Nevada	10	8	0	6	24
Sacramento/Yolo	34	12	2	48	96
San Francisco	14	4	0	6	24
San Joaquin	4	4	0	2	14
San Mateo	14	0	3	9	26
Santa Clara	23	4	8	39	74
Santa Cruz	4	0	0	12	16
Solano	0	4	0	12	16
Sonoma	7	4	13	8	33
Sonoma Valley	0	0	2	0	3
South Lake Tahoe	4	0	0	6	10
Stanislaus	3	0	0	15	21
Tulare	10	0	0	26	36
Tuolumne	3	0	0	9	12
Yuba/Sutter/Colusa	0	0	0	6	6