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2009 Northern California Special Olympics Summer Games

**800 ATHLETES, 500 LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL, 300 COACHES, 1,300 VOLUNTEERS, 4 OLYMPIC SPORTS –
JUNE 26-28**

SACRAMENTO CA, June 18, 2009 – Some 850 Special Olympic athletes from 32 Northern California counties will converge on the UC Davis Campus June 26-28 to participate in a remarkable competition and celebration of physical achievement at the 2009 Summer Games. Each athlete has trained long and hard for the opportunity to compete in championship-level play.

The Opening Ceremonies and the Summer Games are free and open to the public. The Summer Games is the largest Special Olympics sporting competition in Northern California showcasing four sports offered during the spring season – aquatics, bocce, tennis and track & field.

Local Law Enforcement to Run *Flame of Hope*™ Through Northern California

- More than 500 law enforcement personnel from federal, military, state, county and local agencies will be running the Special Olympics' *Flame of Hope*™ through Northern California from June 18 through June 26.
- The *Flame of Hope*™ begins its final journey from Placer County to Sacramento State University before continuing to the Capitol Steps for a press conference at 10:30 a.m., Friday, June 26. Following the press conference, the Torch will continue through West Sacramento and Woodlands before arriving at its destination at the Summer Games 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.

Reach for the Gold 5K Walk/Run

- *Reach for the Gold* is both the theme for Summer Games and a community awareness and fundraising campaign for Special Olympics.
- The public is invited to participate in the Reach for the Gold Walk/Run on Saturday, June 27. The Walk will begin at the A-Street Field, near Toomey Field before winding its way through downtown Davis, the Farmer's Market in Central Park and the UC Davis Arboretum.
- Money raised will support the free year-round sports training and competition programs provided by Special Olympics Northern California for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Supporting Resources

2009 Summer Games Event Schedule: http://www.sonc.org/summergames/sports_venues/event_schedule.html

2009 Summer Games Media Kit: http://www.sonc.org/summergames/about_sonc/index.html

2009 Summer Games Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydFZhA-iH1E>

Past Summer Games Photos: http://www.sonc.org/getinfo/info_news_imagelibrary.html

Torch Run Routes: <http://www.sonc.org/getinfo/documents/SONC-2009TorchRungeneralpressrelease-6-2009.pdf>

Reach for the Gold: http://www.sonc.org/summergames/reach_for_the_gold/index.html

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/specialolympics>

About Special Olympics Northern California

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 over 170 competitions throughout the region in 15 sports. Find out how you can be a fan and visit www.SONC.org/summergames

Our Sponsors

The 2009 Northern California Special Olympics Summer Games is sponsored by AT&T, WalMart, Kaiser Permanente, Nella Oil, Safeway, Chevron, MedeAnalytics, Adobe, Tesoro and the Law Enforcement Torch Run. Our media sponsors include iLoop Mobile, KLOVE radio and Comcast SportsNet.