The 2018 State Summer Games will be held on Friday and Saturday, June 8-9 in Orem. Over 750 athletes and unified partners will compete in softball, t-ball, athletics (track and field) and swimming and participate in the motor activity training program. They will be supported by 300 year-round volunteer coaches and heads of delegations and cheered-on by over 400 Fans in the Stands. Experience the Joy! Be a day-of-volunteer. volunteer@sout.org

“We have so much to celebrate at our 2018 State Summer Games. We get to cheer-on our athletes, salute our USA athletes and witness how 50 years of Special Olympics has made a difference in the lives of those with intellectual disabilities and their families. We invite everyone to come celebrate with us!”

— D’Arcy Dixon Pignanelli, President and CEO, Special Olympics Utah
An Inside Look at the Summer Sports

Softball, T-ball, & Skills

- **Softball.** Slow-pitch in both traditional and unified.
- **T-Ball.** Focused on softball team skills with the ball hit from a tee (traditional only)
- **Skills.** Developing athletes compete in four skill events: base race, throw, field and hit.

“**I enjoy being part of a team and the interaction with my teammates. When you age out of school, Special Olympics gives you a community where you are always welcome.**”
— Chris Briseno, athlete

Swimming

- **Individual events** in all strokes
- **Relay events** in both traditional and unified.
- **Fundamental Events.** Walk, Flotation, Kick Board, Assisted Swim, Unassisted Swim

“I like swimming and racing with the Provo Piranhas. We work hard and cheer for each other. It is a team of friends.”
— Sadie Teague, athlete

Athletics (Track & Field)

- **Track.** Running events and relays in traditional and unified
- **Field.** Throw and jump events.
- **Race Walk and Assisted Walk** (with walking aid equipment)
- **Wheelchair** and Motorized Wheelchair Events

“I became a Unified Partner with the Special Olympics Utah BYU track team for the 4x100 relay. Being a sports partner gives you even more respect of the athletes. When you compete with them you see them inside the sport; you see the fun they have and their love of the sport.”
— Jared Bruton, Unified Partner of the Year 2016, and coach for Team Utah, USA Track Team

Traditional Sports, Unified Sports and Unified Partners

- Traditional is where those with intellectual disabilities compete on the same team.
- Unified Sports, also referred to as a Unified Team, is where those with and without intellectual disabilities compete on the same team.
- A Unified Partner is a team member without an intellectual disability.

Motor Activity Training Program (MATP)

- individually designed training programs for athletes with more involved disabilities.

Karen Nelson, an MATP athlete helps bring the torch into the Opening Ceremonies

Field: Jonathan Lee, Athlete of the Year, 2015, demonstrates Turbo Javelin
**Athlete Thanks**

"As the 2018 Torch Run Ambassador for Utah I thank all the law enforcement officers who will carry the “Flame of Hope” in torch runs throughout Utah in May leading up to the State Summer Games. You help spread the message of hope for inclusive communities for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Thank you."

— Karen Kunder, athlete

― Amber Gertsch, athlete

**Good Luck Team Utah!**

We wish Team Utah members the best as they compete in the USA Games, July 1-7, 2018.

**Soccer, Unified:** Hillcrest HS  
**Athletes:** Tanner Cluff, Adairah Morley, Luis Rodriguez, Aubreanna Cooper, Jaden Hartman  
**Unified Partners:** John Ruff, Moises Gonzalez-Orduha, Jocelyne Lopez-Peralta, Sierra Webster, Boston Iacobazzi  
**Coaches:** John Olsen, Shannon Hurst, Whitney Lott

"It is exciting to be a member of the first high school Unified Team to go to the USA games from Utah. We look forward to a great competition."

— Boston Iacobazzi, Unified Partner, Hillcrest Unified Soccer Team

**Swimming:**  
**Athletes:** Blake Baadsgaard, Ryan Dilg, Alina Dumling, Nicole Nigbur  
**Coach:** Beverly Williamson

**Athletics (Track & Field):**  
**Athletes:** Krista Edwards, Garrett Nicholas, Liza Marshall, Christopher Meyer  
**Coach:** Jared Bruton

**Bocce, Unified:**  
**Athletes:** Jason Stocks, Mikaela Winterton  
**Unified Partners:** Garn Kunder, Rosalinda Burton  
**Coach:** Lara Stayer

**Pilot Competition High Performance Golf:**  
12 Certified Handicap/six scorecard average of 85.

**Athletes:** Brock Aoki, Tony Marino  
**Coach:** Helen Thomas

"In competing we want to seek to achieve our highest potential."

— Tony Marino, athlete, high performance golf

**Special Olympics USA Games Video Gaming Tournament Presented by XBOX:**  
**Athlete / Unified Partner**  
- Eric Ottoson / Tyler Sauer  
- Greg Kogan / Kevin Cai  
- Michael Evans / Tanner Wood  
- Taylor Bishop / Wheeler Heck  
**Coach:** D’Arcy Dixon Pignanelli

**Youth Leadership Experience**  
**Athlete:** Natalie Green  
**Unified Partner:** Katie Hut  
**Advisor:** Ashlee Chatterton Taylor

**Athlete Support Staff**  
Rochelle Deeter and Robert Mooney

**Head of Delegation:** Nathan Badell  
**Social Media Manager:** Wendy Kelly
On July 20, 1968, Eunice Kennedy Shriver opened the first Special Olympics Games. On her way to the first games, she made two decisions: (1) to stop and buy a swim suit so she could help in the pool, and (2) the Athlete Oath.

Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.
– Special Olympics Athlete Oath

Eunice shared a close bond with her sister Rosemary who had an intellectual disability. Growing up, Rosemary and Eunice participated in sports together including swimming and sailing, and these experiences fueled Eunice’s belief that through the power of sports individuals with intellectual disabilities can realize their growth potential.

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Special Olympics was created by the Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation for the benefit of individuals with intellectual disabilities and incorporated in 1968 by his sister Eunice Kennedy Shriver.

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Eunice Kennedy Shriver opens the first Special Olympics Games, July 20, 1968 in Chicago, Illinois.

What’s the difference?

**Special Olympics**

- **FOUNDED:** 1968
- **ATHLETES:** People of all skill levels with an intellectual disability, cognitive delay, or development disability
- **SPORTS:** 32 offered
- **WHEN:** 365 days a year, with 108,800+ competitions in 172 countries. World Games every other year

**Paralympics**

- **FOUNDED:** 1989
- **ATHLETES:** People from 10 categories of physical impairment
- **SPORTS:** 28 offered
- **WHEN:** Paralympic Games every other year

**Olympics**

- **FOUNDED:** 1894
- **ATHLETES:** Varying ability levels. Both able-bodied and athletes with disabilities have competed
- **SPORTS:** 35 offered
- **WHEN:** Olympic Games every other year