



## SPECIAL OLYMPICS USA FACT SHEET

**Who:** Special Olympics USA is the national team that represents the United States at the Special Olympics World Summer and Winter Games. Special Olympics athletes and Unified partners (teammates without intellectual disabilities) from throughout the United States are selected, based on established advancement criteria, an application process and successful completion of Special Olympics USA training camp(s). Once named to the team, athletes and Unified partners work with Special Olympics USA's coaches and their local coaches to train and compete in the sport for which they were selected, for that World Games.

The 2017 World Winter Games team is comprised of 150 athletes, 40 coaches and approximately 20 delegation members who support team operations, for a total delegation of 210.

**Special Olympics USA Sports:** Team members compete in array of the 32 official Special Olympics winter and summer sports, in individual and team formats. For the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games, US athletes will compete in 7 sports: alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, figure skating, floor hockey, snowboarding, snowshoeing and speed skating.

**World Games:** Every two years, the world transcends the boundaries of geography, nationality, political philosophy, gender, age, culture and religion to come together for the Special Olympics World Games. Alternating between summer and winter Games, this event is the flagship event of the Special Olympics movement, which promotes equality, tolerance and acceptance around the world. This prominent world stage brings attention to the Special Olympics movement and helps create positive, sometimes lifesaving policy change for people with intellectual disabilities in countries around the world. Nearly 5 million Special Olympics athletes train and compete in 170 nations across the globe.

Nearly 3,000 athletes and 1,100 coaches from 110 nations will compete at the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria. Competition and special event venues will be in Graz, Schladming and Ramsau.

**Website:** [www.specialolympicsusa.org](http://www.specialolympicsusa.org)

**Twitter:** [@specialolyUSA](https://twitter.com/specialolyUSA)

**Flickr:** <http://bit.ly/SpecialOlyUSAFlickr>

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**Instagram:** [@specialolympicsusa](https://www.instagram.com/specialolympicsusa)

Hash Tag: #Cheer4USA

**Official Partners:** Bank of America is the Premier Sponsor of Special Olympics USA for the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games. The members of Special Olympics USA are not charged a fee by Special Olympics USA. As such, Special Olympics USA relies upon the generosity of corporate, civic and individual donors to cover all athlete and delegation costs. Corporate sponsorships are available.

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