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Send-off Celebration for the PA Delegation of Special Olympics USA Traveling to the World Games in Abu Dhabi Set for the *World of Little League® Museum*

17 PA Athletes, Coaches and Staff to Represent USA at Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi 2019.

February 22, 2019 – [Norristown, PA] – On Wednesday, March 6, 2019, the [World of Little League® Museum and Official Store](#) in South Williamsport, Pa., will host 17 Special Olympics Pennsylvania athletes, coaches and staff for a send-off celebration prior to their departure for the 2019 Special Olympics World Games in Abu Dhabi. Send-off activities, taking place from 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m., will feature a brief program with special guests including Williamsport Mayor Gabriel Campana, a group museum and stadium tour, lunch, and police escort for the delegation to Newark, New Jersey where the Special Olympics USA national team will gather and prepare to embark on this life-changing experience.

The [Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi 2019](#) will be held from March 14-21, 2019 in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, where more than 7,000 athletes from over 170 countries will compete in 24 different individual and team sports. [Special Olympics USA](#) will send a 313-member delegation to represent the United States, comprised of 216 athletes, 65 coaches and approximately 34 delegation members who support team operations. Team members will compete in 18 of the 24 sports offered: athletics, basketball, bocce, bowling, cycling, equestrian, football (soccer), golf, gymnastics – artistic, gymnastics—rhythmic, open water swimming, powerlifting, sailing, swimming, table tennis, tennis, triathlon, and volleyball.

13 ATHLETES, 3 COACHES, AND 1 SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER WILL REPRESENT SPECIAL OLYMPICS PA:

VOLLEYBALL:

- **Holdan Marr:** Clinton Co.
- **Christopher Smith:** Clinton Co.
- **Robert Borner Jr.:** Clinton Co.
- **Ronald Smith:** Clinton Co.
- **Conner Borner:** Clinton Co.
- **Jordan Litz:** Clinton Co.
- **Kathy Marr:** Clinton Co.
- **Elainie Litz:** Clinton Co.
- **Arthur Powers:** Clinton Co.

VOLLEYBALL COACHES:

- **Brad Marr:** Clinton Co.
- **Charlie Litz:** Clinton Co.
- **Sarah Fromknecht:** Clinton Co.

TENNIS:

- **Brianna Whorl:** Blair Co.
- **Valerie Stiffy:** Butler Co.

TRACK & FIELD:

- **Aaron Keller:** Luzerne Co.

POWERLIFTING:

- **Delina Rodriguez:** Carbon Co.

SUPPORT STAFF:

- **Wenona Sutton,** Assistant Director of Communications SO USA

The delegation also includes Special Olympics Unified Sports® teams, where people with and without intellectual disabilities compete together, as teammates. These will be the most inclusive Games to date. Special Olympics USA will have representation in the following Unified Sports: basketball, bocce, golf, sailing, soccer, table tennis, tennis, and volleyball.

Special Olympics USA is the national team that represents the United States at the Special Olympics World Summer and Winter Games. Team members compete in an array of the 32 official Special Olympics summer and winter sports, in individual and team formats.

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 inclusion, equality, and acceptance around the world.

Expected to be the largest Special Olympics World Games in history, ESPN's global television networks and digital media will bring extensive coverage to sports fans and supporters of the Special Olympics movement around the world. As the official broadcast partner of Special Olympics, ESPN's television coverage will be carried across its networks in the U.S. as well as streamed through WatchESPN and the ESPN App.

Bank of America is the Premier Sponsor of Special Olympics USA. Champion is the Official Supplier and Supporter of Special Olympics USA. MTM is Recognition Partner of Special Olympics USA.

To follow Special Olympics USA, visit www.specialolympicsusa.org, and follow on Facebook: www.facebook.com/specialolympicsusa, Twitter: [@specialolyUSA](https://twitter.com/specialolyUSA), and Instagram: [@specialolympicsusa](https://www.instagram.com/specialolympicsusa). Hash Tag: #Cheer4USA

About Special Olympics Pennsylvania

Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) provides year-round training and competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports to nearly 20,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, and experience joy. For more information, visit our web site at www.specialolympicspa.org.

About the 2019 Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi (AD2019)

Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi will be the largest sports and humanitarian event in the world in 2019. From March 14 to 21, 7,500 athletes and 3,000 coaches representing more than 176 nations will participate in 24 officially sanctioned Olympic-style sports in venues throughout Abu Dhabi. The first ever Special Olympics World Games to be held in the Middle East and North Africa will also be the most unified Games in the 50-year history of the Special Olympics movement, with inclusion of people of determination with intellectual disabilities in every aspect of the event. Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi 2019 is an integral part of local, national and regional plans to expand opportunities for people of determination in line with Abu Dhabi and the UAE's shared vision of a unified and inclusive society. For more information on Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi 2019, including volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, visit abu Dhabi2019.org or follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

About the World of Little League®: Peter J. McGovern Museum and Official Store

The [World of Little League®: Peter J. McGovern Museum and Official Store](http://WorldofLittleLeague.com), located at 525 Montgomery Pike (U.S. Route 15), is open daily from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. General admission is \$5, children (ages 5 through 12) are \$2, and senior citizens (ages 62 and older) are \$3. Children four years and younger are admitted free of charge, as well as any Little Leaguer® wearing a uniform shirt that includes the Little League official shoulder patch. Additional information about the museum, events, and its inclement weather schedule can be found at LittleLeagueMuseum.org or by contacting the Museum at 570-326-3607. Follow *World of Little League* on Facebook (facebook.com/LittleLeagueMuseum) and Twitter (twitter.com/LLBMuseum). Visitors of Lycoming County are also encouraged to visit the Lycoming County Visitors Bureau website, www.vacationpa.com, or call toll-free, 1-800-358-9900.

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