



**Special Olympics**

*New Jersey*

## PRESS RELEASE

Contact:  
Doreen Pustizzi, Director of Communications  
609-896-8000 ext. 274 Fax: 609-896-8040  
3 Princess Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648  
dlp@sonj.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 29, 2009

### **2009 Summer Games Celebrate 40 Years of Inspiration**

*June 12<sup>th</sup> Opening Ceremonies Kick Off Largest Special Olympics Competition of the Year.*

LAWRENCEVILLE – Celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> year serving athletes with intellectual disabilities, Special Olympics New Jersey's 2009 Summer Games take place June 12 to 14. Hosted by The College of New Jersey in Ewing, more than 2,200 athletes, along with thousands of coaches, volunteers and spectators will participate in the largest competition of the year.

This year's festivities kick off with the Opening Ceremony at TCNJ's Lions Stadium on Friday, June 12 at 7:30 p.m. Athletes and coaches will parade into the stadium where they will be addressed by dignitaries and special guests. The ceremony concludes with members of the law enforcement community carrying the Special Olympics torch into the arena where the cauldron will be lit to officially open the Games. Athletes and spectators will then enjoy a performance by The B-Street Band, the longest running Bruce Springsteen tribute band.

On Saturday and Sunday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day, athletes will compete in Aquatics, Bocce, Powerlifting, Softball, Tennis and Track & Field on TCNJ's campus. Gymnastics will take place off campus at Motion Gymnastics in Pennington, NJ. Special Olympics New Jersey athletes train and compete year round and have been preparing for this competition for months.

All events are free and open to the public. To learn more, visit [www.sonj.org](http://www.sonj.org), or call (609) 896-8000.

-30-

*For a list of athletes competing in your county, please contact Doreen Pustizzi, Director of Communications, at (609) 896-8000, or e-mail [dlp@sonj.org](mailto:dlp@sonj.org).*

**About SONJ:**

**Special Olympics New Jersey provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.**