



Special Olympics
New Jersey

PRESS RELEASE

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NEW JERSEY SENDING 52 ATHLETES TO SPECIAL OLYMPICS USA NATIONAL GAMES IN NEBRASKA

LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ – Special Olympics New Jersey is sending 52 athletes and 15 coaches to represent the state at the 2010 Special Olympics National Games in Lincoln, Nebraska. Team New Jersey will leave from Atlantic City Airport on **Saturday morning, July 17**.

Taking place July 18 to 23, the 2010 USA National Games will be the largest sporting event held in the history of Nebraska. Organizers expect 3,000 athletes, 1,000 coaches, 8,000 volunteers and 15,000 family members and friends to come to Lincoln and Omaha for the event.

At Nationals, New Jersey athletes will compete in Aquatics, Basketball, Bowling, Bocce, Flag Football, Golf, Track & Field, or Soccer. Team New Jersey members qualified to compete at the national level by winning Gold medals in those sports at the 2008 Fall Sports Festival, 2009 Spring Sports Festival, or the 2009 Summer Games. Those qualifiers were then eligible for a random draw that determined the team.

SONJ athletes competing at the National level will qualify to be on Team USA for the 2011 Special Olympics World Games in Athens, Greece. The number of slots for that team has yet to be determined.

Special Olympics New Jersey provides year-round sports training and competition in 24 sports to more than 21,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities, completely free of charge.

For more information on Team New Jersey and the 2010 National Games, visit www.sonj.org. Follow us on Twitter @SONewJersey for the latest updates from the Games.

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Please see enclosed Media Guide for a complete list of athletes and coaches.

Interviews with Team NJ athletes and coaches are available upon request.