

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Jeremy Davis
Director of Marketing & Communications
Office: 609.896.8000 x 297
Email: JLD@SONJ.org
Cell: 908.343.0146
Facebook: Special Olympics New Jersey
Twitter: @SONewJersey
Instagram: SpecialOlympicsNJ
www.sonj.org/follow-us/

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 4, 2025

Special Olympics New Jersey Summer Games This Weekend ***Athletes to Compete in State-Level Competition***

Ewing, NJ – Special Olympics New Jersey (SONJ) is thrilled to announce its annual Summer Games will be held this weekend at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ). This culmination of months of hard work by thousands of athletes is the marquee event of the competition season and will take place from **Friday, June 6 to Sunday, June 8.**

Over **2,000 athletes and Unified partners** representing all 21 counties across the Garden State will compete in 7 sports: [athletics \(track & field\)](#), [bocce](#), [gymnastics](#), [powerlifting](#), [softball](#), [swimming](#), and [tennis](#). Most of the events will take place on TCNJ's campus, while softball will play at Armstrong Memorial Park, and Gymnastics will compete at Schafer Sports Center in Ewing.

The weekend's festivities will kick off early Friday morning, around 4:45 am, as law enforcement officers known as "Guardians of the Flame" take to the streets of their local communities for the annual [Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics New Jersey](#). More than 3,000 officers, divided into 26 separate legs, will carry the Flame of Hope to raise awareness for Special Olympics New Jersey.

The annual Torch Run will culminate in the evening on Friday at [Opening Ceremony](#) for the SONJ Summer Games at 7:30 pm in [Lions Stadium](#) at TCNJ. All are welcome to attend the ceremony, which will feature a Parade of Athletes marching into the stadium, joined by numerous loyal supporters, including law enforcement officers. A select group of law enforcement officers and athletes will run with the Flame of Hope to light the cauldron, followed by a special appearance by SONJ athlete, DJ Redline, and performing artist [Mara Justine](#) followed by a spectacular fireworks display.

Competitions will take place throughout the day on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at the various venues, and spectators are highly encouraged to attend and cheer on the athletes as they compete.

-more-

In addition to competition, [Young Athletes™](#) will host developmental sports activities and a Future Stars Race for children ages 2-7 with intellectual disabilities. The [Healthy Athletes](#) program will provide athletes the opportunity to meet with healthcare professionals specializing in vision, dental, hearing, podiatry, mindfulness, and health education. Athletes and supporters will also have access to Olympic Village, where they can enjoy fun activities and engage with year-round corporate partners.

All the events over the weekend are completely FREE of charge for the participating athletes, including food, housing, entertainment, and health screenings. These opportunities would be possible without the support of thousands of volunteers. Nearly **3,000 volunteers**, including coaches, officials, clinicians, photographers, event support staff, and many others, will be on hand throughout the weekend to ensure the success of the athletes' experience.

[Wakefern Food Corp./ShopRite](#) provides a tremendous amount of support for the SONJ Summer Games and donates lunch for everyone in attendance over the weekend.

For a detailed event schedule, information about individual sports activities, and complete Summer Games coverage, visit sonjsummergames.org.

Opening Ceremony will be hosted by ESPN on-air talent, [Coley Harvey](#), and live streamed on **Friday, June 6** at sonjsummergames.org/live-streaming.

Following the SONJ Summer Games, photos will be available to download at [flickr.com/photos/sonnewjersey/albums](https://www.flickr.com/photos/sonnewjersey/albums).

Photos from the 2024 SONJ Summer Games may be found [here](#) and are available to use upon request.

To schedule an interview with SONJ President & CEO, Heather Andersen, or for a list of athletes competing from your coverage area, please contact Jeremy Davis at jld@sonj.org.

-30-

ABOUT SPECIAL OLYMPICS NEW JERSEY:

For over 55 years, Special Olympics New Jersey (SONJ) has provided year-round sports training and athletic competition to thousands of children and adults with intellectual disabilities, completely free of charge. Athletes can participate in 22 Olympic-type sports, receive free health screenings, and participate in leadership opportunities. Through the power of sports, athletes develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, and experience pure joy. Additionally, this inclusive community allows athletes to share their gifts, skills, and friendship with their families, fellow Special Olympics athletes, and the greater community. To learn more about Special Olympics New Jersey visit www.sonj.org.