



2006 Special Olympics USA National Games Young Athletes™ Program Demonstration Fact Sheet

- WHAT:** Special Olympics will conduct a one-day demonstration, to be held in conjunction with the first-ever Special Olympics USA National Games, of the Young Athletes™ Program, which was created to answer the requests of families of Special Olympics athletes to find activities to include children with intellectual disabilities younger than eight years of age, the minimum age requirement to participate in Special Olympics.
- Special Olympics has launched a pilot version of the Young Athletes™ Program in 21 Special Olympics Programs around the world with the generous support of the Mattel Children's Foundation.
- WHEN:** July 3, 2006, 11 a.m. – 12 noon
- WHO:** Participants will include a group of 10-15 young athletes from Des Moines, Iowa. The athletes will perform several activities from the Young Athletes™ Program in front of an intimate audience of approximately 50-60 people, including program leadership, board chairs, Special Olympics, Inc. board members, researchers and media.
- WHERE:** Hilton Coliseum in the Festival Village, Ames, Iowa
- OBJECTIVE:** To educate program leadership about the Young Athletes™ Program and to leave a legacy throughout the state of Iowa that will foster the growth of Special Olympics by opening the movement to an even broader population of people with intellectual disabilities.
- DEMONSTRATION SCHEDULE:**
- 11:00 a.m. – Introduction of Young Athletes™
Katie Lavender, Global Messenger
 - 11:05 a.m. – Overview of Young Athletes™
Bryan Ruff, Special Olympics Global Messenger
 - 11:20 a.m. – Interactive Demonstration
Debby Eldred, Area Director, Special Olympics Iowa
With 10-15 Young Athletes and their families
 - 11:45 a.m. – Recognition of Young Athletes and Photos
 - 12:00 p.m. – End
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