



## 2006 Special Olympics National Youth Summit

### Overview

- ◆ A gathering for 12 young people with and without intellectual disabilities to talk openly about challenges faced and opportunities for expanding the Special Olympics movement nationwide.
- ◆ Participants represent eight U.S. states.
- ◆ Aged 12-17, the youth participants are middle/intermediate school or high/secondary school students. Students are paired– one Special Olympics athlete with a peer partner without an intellectual disability from the same school or community.
- ◆ Participants also will act as journalists at the 2006 USA National Games, reporting stories back to their peers, schools and communities via blogs and daily podcasts available online through iTunes.
- ◆ Youth participants will continue to serve Special Olympics as members of the Global Youth Advisory Council. In that capacity, students will fulfill a number of duties, from presenting at conferences and workshops to developing Web site ideas to writing stories for the “Get Into It Gazette” online newsletter.
- ◆ Youth Summit participants will serve as activists, encouraging their peers to accept people with intellectual disabilities. Each participant team also will hold a Youth Summit at their school.

### Background

The 2006 National Youth Summit will be held in concert with the first-ever Special Olympics USA National Games. The inaugural summit took place in 2001 at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Anchorage, Alaska, and was aired on Nickelodeon television (Nick News). The second Global Youth Summit was held in Dublin, Ireland, as part of the 2003 World Summer Games and attracted Nelson Mandela and stars Colin Farrell and Maria Shriver. This show aired on MTV in the United Kingdom. The 2005 Global Youth Summit at the World Games in Nagano, Japan, included more than 300 Japanese youth and attracted former U.S. President Bill Clinton; the summit aired on Japanese national television.

### Key Dates & Summit Highlights

- ◆ **July 1, 2006** – Formal Welcome Dinner
- ◆ **July 2** – Reporting, Journalism and Photojournalism Workshop
- ◆ **July 3** – “Compete.Empower.Unite” Youth Forum
- ◆ **July 3, 5 & 6** –Webcasts. Utilizing the latest technology, summit participants will interact with schoolchildren across the United States through live, real-time Internet broadcasts.
- ◆ **July 6** – Unified Sports® Bowling Event

### Youth Summit Mission

- ◆ Share their ideas and develop strategies with Special Olympics about ways to reverse negative, stereotypical attitudes about people with disabilities.
- ◆ Report on the athletes competing at the 2006 USA National Games and transmit these stories back to their peers, schools and communities.
- ◆ Discuss ways that organizers of Special Olympics can better meet the needs of today’s athletes, volunteers, coaches and family members.
- ◆ Upon returning to their home states, expand on the opportunities for youth to become involved with Special Olympics through their schools and communities.

### Key Facts

- ◆ Number of participants – 22 (12 students aged 12-17 and 10 adult chaperones)
- ◆ Number of states represented – Alaska, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Mississippi, Virginia, Wisconsin and two teams from Iowa.

### Contact Information

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