



SE AREA ♦ SIOUX FALLS

04.24.26



OPENING CEREMONY

Athlete Oath..... John McHale
Sioux Falls Lancers

Sportsmanship Statement..... Mari Ibis
Sioux Falls Lancers

Without VOLUNTEERS, we would not exist as an organization.

They are not paid, they are just generous. We ask you to be respectful, and most of all, please be kind.

If you feel an error has been made, seek out staff so we can problem solve.

Remember, there are only four roles during a game: spectator, competitor, official and coach. Everyone involved in athletics would be wise to choose only one of those roles at a time.



Help us leave it better than we found it...

Please pick up your trash



**SPECIAL OLYMPICS SOUTH DAKOTA
STATE SUMMER GAMES
May 14-16, 2026 Spearfish**



Service animals
ONLY are
allowed at
SOSD events

Thank You!

We would like to recognize those responsible for the success of these Games... You're the best!

**Barb Sandoval
Area Competition Coordinator**

Augustana Swim Team

Midco Aquatics Center

Dorsey and Whitney Trust Company

Parents, Coaches & Athletes



A Note To Volunteers

Volunteers do everything there is to do for Special Olympics and more. You are fundraisers, cheerleaders, administrators, chauffeurs, chaperones, trainers, coaches, policy makers, trash collectors, referees, food servers, score keepers and everything in-between.

You serve without salary, without recognition, without honors or awards. Special Olympics could not do without you - your dedication, your work, and your love.

You represent the highest values of the human spirit and we are grateful for your service!

Thank You!

EVENT SCHEDULE Midco Aquatics Center

7:30 am Delegation Check-in

8:00 am Meet Starts

M & F	4' Pool
7	15M Assisted Swim
22	15M Walk
15	15M Flotation
26	15M Freestyle
7	15M MATP Walk
8	15M MATP Swim
8	25M MATP Swim
12	25M Flotation
6	25M Assisted Swim

10:00 am

9' Pool
4 X 25M Unified Relay (teams)
4 X 50M Relay (teams)
4 X 25M Relay (teams)

Males in these events swim in 9' Pool

Females in these events swim in 4' Pool

F	M	
-	1	500M Freestyle (USA Games Athlete)
46	47	25M Freestyle
35	44	50M Freestyle
3	5	100M Freestyle
34	20	25M Backstroke
9	11	50M Backstroke
1	2	100M Backstroke
2	1	25 M Butterfly
-	2	50M Butterfly
6	3	25M Breaststroke

ATTENTION!

IMPORTANT SPECTATOR INFORMATION:

DO NOT ENTER THROUGH THE MAIN DOORS. Please follow the signs that say Swimming Meet Entrance.

Concessions will be available.

DO NOT park in Park Ridge, Children's Care or VA Hospital lots. Vehicles will be towed.

No outside food or beverage allowed.



If you are a Special Olympics Athlete age 7 - 17, and live in the Sioux Falls area, First Tee of South Dakota Invites you to attend a FREE summer golf program.

[Click to register for session 1: June 4, 11, 18, 25](#)

[Click to register for session 2: July 9, 16, 23, 30](#)

NOTE: You can register for both sessions!

PARTICIPATING ATHLETES

Brandon Valley

Bowar, Rigley

Madison Area

Feldhaus, Sawyer

Meier, Mackenzie

Menzel, Cody

Mitchell

Cohu, Michael

Dice, Delilah

Fuoss-Dickson, Christina

Hargrove, Samantha

Hieb, Brent

Semmler, Angie

Steele, Caleb

Sundermann, Alyssa

Svatos, Brad

Vobr, Tiffany

Sioux Falls Area United

Wolfpack

Bayt, Ariana

Becker, Paige

Bender, Margo

Benson, Beau

Benz, Rebecca

Berke, Hunter

Berry, Reagan

Brown, Amelia

Bumgardner, Noah

Chicoine, Josiah

Deauville, Jaleel

Deutsch, Easton

Geraets, Gabriella

Geranen, Samuel

Geranen, Seeley

Groeneveld, Emily

Harwig, Kaylee

Hight, Gabe

Hight, Nasya

Hurley, Katelyn

Johnson, Carter

Ketcham, Ethan

Kjergaard, Tristian

Leiferman, Zachary

Lenhoff, Ethan

Mehlhef, Amelia

Moore, Hansel

Nielsen, Beckett

Nix, Ian

Oertel-Gustafson, Severin

Opp, Shiloh

Pfeifer, Libby

Riedel, Carsen

Roberts, Anna

Saugstad, Andrew

Schrank, Brennen

Snow, Evan

Sterling, Rayna

Styles, Owen

Swenson, Sonja

Szabo, Dominic

Sioux Falls Bulldogs

Baker, Bennett

Bickett, Alasia

Claudio, Carlito

Davis, Harper

Dunn, Liam

Gordon, Joshua

Hofstee, Alexandria

Rasmussen, Landry

Schultheiss, Brielle

Schuyler, Aubree

Sioux Falls Fireworks

Christensen, Christina

Cressman, Kyle

Davis, Sharon

Deelstra, Lincoln

Egdorf, Erika

Erpenbach, Cheryl

Goehring, Eric

Gretillat, Kevin

Hight, Toby

Hilla, Curtis

Hope, Wyatt

Jacobs, Bobbi

Jacobson, Jason

Lommen, Morgann

Mayrose, Rebecca

Molstad, Makeigha

Nelson, Christopher

Nelson, Wyatt

Nolmans, Stephanie

O'Day, Cody

Reed, Samantha

Retterath, Sophie

Rickel, Joy

Riddle, Todd

Roe, Kyrra

Sandoval, Chana

Schlosser, Grady

Schmidt, James

Siemers, Cody

Smith, Letitia

Stoakes, Jessica

Talbott, Nikki

Thinnes, Gregory

Waterman, Matthew

Waterman, Michael

Wendel, Vincent

Sioux Falls Lancers

Bethke, Marco

Briggs, Scotty

DeRouchey, Dominic

Elsperger, Jordan

Hill, Avery

Ibis, Mari

Irvine, Macy

James, Katelynn

Keiser, Christopher

Keiser, Jaren

Kouri, Brayden

Kreun, Grace

Madsen, Cade

McHale, John

Olson, Jordan

Redda, Dunia

Reese, Siyara

Robinson, Elizabeth

Schultz, Makena

Snieder, Kari

Strohm, McKenzie

Thomas, Kadan

van Beek, Jameson

VanStedum, Lydia

Vermillion-SESDAC

Andal, Julia

Brown, James

Glenn, Kristy

Glenn, Tiffany

Rose, Dedric

Zephier, Yuhakdinaj

Vermillion

Moser, Trinity

Solberg, James

Yankton

Becker, Thomas

Hamm, Alexis

Hanzlik, Carrie

Harts, Melissa

Jindra, Sophia

Keffer, Jeremiah

Kirchner, Kayla

Kube, Shanel

Rolfs, Shelby

Ryan, James

Sherman, Keira

Stammer, Sharrie

Van Olson, Joyce

VanDemark, Crystal

Special Olympics South Dakota
Newsworthy:
timely. important. interesting.



STAY INFORMED!

Athletes, Coaches, Family Members, and anyone else with an interest in Special Olympics South Dakota, please sign-up to receive our weekly newsletter

NEWSWORTHY. This is your most efficient way to stay up to date on SOSD news, events, and information.

Newsworthy is published every Tuesday afternoon by Constant Contact.



**KEEP
CALM
AND
CHEER
ON**



WHAT:

SOSD invites you to participate in our Annual Step Challenge!

WHEN:

Annually. Our next Challenge will run from **May 11 - July 05, 2026.**

WHO:

Athletes, parents, unified partners, brothers, sisters... everyone is encouraged to participate.

How:

Registration will close **April 27, 2026.**



SCAN TO REGISTER 

2026

OUTSTANDING AWARDS

Please show your love for Special Olympics by nominating the deserving people in your life for an SOSD Outstanding Award!

Spirit of a Champion Award (Outstanding Athlete)

The nominated athlete must have attended at least one competition during the year.

Don Baker Award

The "Don Baker Award" is the highest honor presented by Special Olympics South Dakota. The award is given annually to an individual, organization, business, or agency that has given outstanding support to Special Olympics South Dakota.

Family Of The Year

Presented to family members – including parents; brothers; sisters; other relatives.

Outstanding Coach (Ron Stewart Award)

Presented to a Special Olympics Coach who best demonstrates a high degree of technical skill and personal commitment to their program.

Volunteer Of The Year (Lyle Farrand Award)

Presented to the person who has exhibited the best example of voluntary action to improve the quality of Special Olympics.

Champion Award (DJ Mertens Award)

Presented to any business, organization, or media outlet which has made a major contribution to Special Olympics South Dakota.

Unity Award

Presented to a Unified Partner, individual, or entity that promotes inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities.

All award recipients will be recognized at our State Bowling Tournament banquet held in November.

Only electronic nominations will be accepted and are due no later than May 21, 2026.

Contact Us

800 E. I-90 Lane
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
1.800.585.2114 or 1.605.331.4117
Fax: 1.605.331.4328 www.sosd.org

Board of Directors

David Herbster - Sioux Falls (Chair)

Eric Tillman - Spearfish (Vice Chair)

Brooke Harms - Sioux Falls (Sec)

Steve Schacht - Rapid City (Treas)

Jason Alley - Rapid City

Monica Burgess - Rapid City

Joe Burmeister - Rapid City

Joe Carlson - Canton

Tasia Dass - Sioux Falls

Nick Davis - Rapid City

Trevor Hayes - Aberdeen

Peggy Heermann - Aberdeen

Chris Lather - Castlewood

Nancy Lehner - Jefferson

Jill Maliske - Rapid City

Amy Pipke - Rapid City

Duane Popham - Watertown

Paul Schmig - South Shore

Jeff Sheehan - Hayti

David Tanner - Rapid City

Jessica Weitschat - Pierre

Thank you for your service!

Schedule of Events 2026

April 24	BH Area Track & Field	Rapid City
April 24	NE Area Swimming	Watertown
April 24	SE Area Swimming	Sioux Falls
April 25	SE Area Track & Field	Brandon
May 1	NE Area Track & Field	Milbank
May 2	BH Area Swimming	Spearfish
May 14-16	State Summer Games	Spearfish
July 11	West River Equestrian	Rapid City
July 18	East River Equestrian	Watertown
August 15	SE Area Softball	Sioux Falls
August 15	BH Area Softball	Rapid City
August 16	SE Area Bocce	Sioux Falls
August 22	BH Area Bocce	Rapid City
August 23	NE Area Bocce	Lake Norden
September 18	Fall Classic (Bocce)	Rapid City
September 19 & 20	Fall Classic (Softball)	Rapid City
October 8	NE Area Unified Doubles	Brookings
October 9	NE Area Singles	Aberdeen
October 9	BH Area Singles	Rapid City
October 10	BH Area Unified Doubles	Rapid City
October 10	SE Area Singles	Sioux Falls
October 11	SE Area Unified Doubles	Sioux Falls
November 6-8	Traditional Bowling	Aberdeen
November 14 & 15	Unified Bowling	Sioux Falls

SOSD Staff

Nick Moen
President/CEO
 nmoen@sosd.org

Johna Thum
 VP - Field Services
 jthum@sosd.org

Julie Briggs
 VP - Outreach
 jbriggs@sosd.org

Jason Ferro
 Unified Champion Schools Director
 jferro@sosd.org

Haley Zerr
 Head of Sports & Competition
 hzerr@sosd.org

Cathy Grubb
 Sports Director / BH Area
 cgrubb@sosd.org

Carrie Gerdeman
 Sports Director / BH Area
 cgerdeman@sosd.org

Siddharth Mehta
 Sports Director / NE Area
 smehta@sosd.org

Todd Bradwisch
 VP - LETR
 tbradwisch@sosd.org

Michelle Paulsen
 LETR Event Manager
 mpaulsen@sosd.org

Jill Kvanli
 Marketing Manager
 jkvanli@sosd.org

Lane Riedel
 Office Manager
 lriedel@sosd.org

John McHale
 Sports Assistant

Nick Mills
 Administrative Assistant
 nmills@sosd.org

ATTENTION ATHLETES!
 Your State Summer Games dance
 theme is Sports Teams



ATHLETE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

What is an Athlete Leadership Council?



We are a group of athletes who meet using a well-thought-out agenda to discuss Special Olympics topics important to us. We then make recommendations to program leadership. We have been organized and meeting since 2013. Three members of the ALC also serve on the SOSD Board of Directors.

Fellow athletes, if you have an idea or concern, talk to one of us... let's work together!

Meet your ALC members. We are here to serve YOU!



Zach Bevers
Brookings Area



Ashley Clark
Sioux Falls



Jamie Davey
Rapid City Flame



Trevor Hayes
Aberdeen Area HCE



Melissa Heckel
Spearfish Peaks



Grady Heffner
Huron Heartland
Hunters



Kyle Hegge
SESDAC Vermillion



Chris Hilla
Sioux Falls
Fireworks



Mari Ibis
Sioux Falls Lancers



Jaren Keiser
Sioux Falls Lancers



Natalia McCauley
Sturgis-BHSSC



Cody Menzel
Madison Area



Nick Mills
Sioux Falls
Fireworks



Derek Smith
Sioux Falls
Fireworks



David Tanner
Rapid City Storm



Correna Templar
Rapid City Patriots



Trevor Tridle
Sturgis-BHSSC



Jessica Weitschat
Pierre Wildcats



Lorraine Whiteman
Spearfish Peaks

THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS!

—— May others be as kind to you as you have been to us ——

Sandoval

Barb Sandoval & Family



THE WELLNESS CENTER & USD PHYSICAL THERAPY PRESENTS:
RYAN HANKS LIFTATHON



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH DAKOTA

SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE STATEWIDE PARTNERS

