

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Team New Hampshire Competes in Seattle at 2018 Special Olympics USA Games *Sunday July 1, 2018*

Thirty-eight athletes and fifteen coaches from across New Hampshire are in Seattle, Washington competing at the 2018 Special Olympics USA Games. From July 1-6, Team New Hampshire will join thousands of Special Olympics athletes and coaches from across the nation, along with tens of thousands of volunteers, family members and fans, for a week of special events and competitions. Team New Hampshire athletes will be competing in athletics, basketball, bocce, bowling, golf, powerlifting and swimming. In addition, Team New Hampshire has one athlete and one Unified Sports® partner participating in the Youth Leadership Experience, which will bring together high school students from across the country where they will participate in a week of volunteering and training on how to be representatives of change within their schools, communities, and state.

Photos of Team New Hampshire

<https://flic.kr/s/aHskDLtmwE>

Team New Hampshire Bios

<http://sonh.org/sports-and-competitive-events/Summer/USA-Games/default.aspx> (see Meet the Team section at bottom of the page).

Today's Summary

The powerlifting team woke early for assessments today. They did an equipment check, measured the heights of their bars, and weighed in. Afterward, the entire delegation participated in the Opening Ceremony where more than 39,000 fans welcomed 4,000 athletes and coaches to the Emerald City – Seattle while celebrating inclusion, acceptance, and athletic abilities.

“We’re here to take a stand for a different America, because we see a different America. We believe in a different America, and we’re determined to create a different America,” said Timothy P. Shriver, Chairman, Special Olympics International, adding “It’s an America that we can already say that without fear or favor, I choose to include.”

The Opening Ceremony was broadcast live by ESPN on ABC and included several high-profile celebrities and dignitaries including: ESPN’s Kevin Negandhi, actor and singer Taye Diggs, co-Grand Marshal and Seattle Seahawk Shaquem Griffin and co-Grand Marshal and Special Olympics athlete Tim Corrigan.

The event also included appearances by world renowned DJ Marshmello; “American Idol” winner Maddie Poppe; Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella; WWE stars Mark Henry and Charlotte Flair; WWE Chief Brand Officer Stephanie McMahon; singer and finalist on “The Voice” Kyla Jade, Special Olympics International’s Global Inspiration Officer Loretta Claiborne, Special Olympics International Chairman Tim Shriver, Microsoft President and 2018 USA Game Honorary Chairman Brad Smith; singer-songwriter Allen Stone; Olympics champion Apolo Ohno; and singer-songwriter Charlie Puth.

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Tomorrow's Events

- Athletics
 - Dylan Coyne and Bayzil Moreau HP100m run preliminary
 - Phoenix-Trinity Irish 50M Run and 100M Walk
 - Zach Morris and Ethan Brown 100M Run
- Basketball
 - The team will play their first and second preliminary games.
- Bocce
 - Singles competition for Rachel Maxim, Lisa Moody, Joshua Brescia, Justin Houle
- Bowling
 - Singles competition for Lori Strand, Ashley Dow, David Law and Richard Coulter
- Golf
 - Round 1 of golf for Parker and Mark Thornton as well as Craig and Jan Eichler
- Powerlifting
 - Cory Remillard and Andrew Strzykalski will compete in bench press, dead lift and squat.
- Swimming
 - Alec Cirulli, Kelley Jon Scruggs, Amanda Coviello and Katie Bourque will compete in the 25M Backstroke

ABOUT SPECIAL OLYMPICS NEW HAMPSHIRE

Special Olympics New Hampshire (SONH) is an accredited program of Special Olympics International (SOI) and is part of an international global movement that changes lives by encouraging and empowering people with intellectual disabilities, promoting acceptance for all, and fostering communities of understanding and respect worldwide. To learn more, visit www.sonh.org.

ABOUT THE 2018 SPECIAL OLYMPICS USA GAMES

The 2018 Special Olympics USA Games will be held in Seattle, Washington July 1-6, 2018. More than 4,000 participants representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia, along with the support of tens of thousands of volunteers and spectators, will compete in 14 Olympic-type team and individual sports. The 2018 Special Olympics USA Games will celebrate the Special Olympics movement and its 50th anniversary; promote the ideals of acceptance and inclusion through sport; and showcase athletes from throughout the U.S. and the abilities of people with intellectual disabilities. The 2018 USA Games will also highlight Special Olympics' work in sport, education, health and community-building.

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