



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release:

Contact: Megan Davidson

Megan@VermillionChamber.com

605.624.5571

JOIN IN WELCOMING THE ATHLETES TO VERMILLION FOR THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS SOUTH DAKOTA SUMMER GAMES

Vermillion, SD., June 23rd, 2021 – The Vermillion Area Chamber & Development Company (VCDC) is excited to announce that Vermillion will once again be hosting the Special Olympics South Dakota Area Summer Games at the University of South Dakota on Saturday, June 26th from 8:45 am – 1:00 pm.

This year's event has been shortened to a one-day event to continue to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 to athletes, volunteers, and spectators.

This event is a collaboration between Special Olympics South Dakota, the Vermillion Area Chamber & Development Company, and the University of South Dakota.

"We are so excited to welcome back the South Dakota Special Olympics and the amazing athletes that compete," commented Nate Welch, President and CEO of the Vermillion Area Chamber & Development Company. "We also encourage athletes, families, and spectators to visit our historic downtown while they're visiting. There are wonderful opportunities to dine and shop, so stop by after your events!"

The community is invited to attend the event and can choose between watching and cheering on the athletes or join in to volunteer. The Summer Games will take place at the Lillibridge Track Complex and will include competitions in track and field, softball throw, race walking, and jumping events. The Opening Ceremony will commence at 8:45 am.

The Special Olympics is still in need of volunteers to help run the event. This is a great organization to be involved with, so if you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, please sign up to register as a volunteer at sosd.org/become-a-volunteer.html



“This year’s games are very special.” said David Herbster, Athletic Director of USD and Chair of the Summer Games Organizing Committee. “Unfortunately, we had to cancel last year due to the pandemic. However, as numbers are low in South Dakota, we feel confident that we can give our athletes the chance to safely compete, and we are taking extra precautions to ensure this. The 2019 Special Olympics were held in Vermillion, and we are thankful to get another chance, and we cannot wait to welcome them back to Vermillion!”

The Special Olympics South Dakota Summer Games returned to Vermillion in 2019 for the first time in 50 years. It was intended that the State Summer Games would be held in Vermillion for two years, and in Spearfish for the following two years and then continuing to alternate between the two locations. With the cancellation of the 2020 event due to COVID-19, Vermillion is proud to again host this wonderful event in 2021.

The Special Olympics is an unprecedented global movement, which, through quality sports training, and competition improves the lives of people with intellectual disabilities and, in turn, the lives of everyone they touch.

Special Olympics Summer Games believes that through sports training and competition, people with intellectual disabilities benefit physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually. Through participation and observation, families are strengthened, and communities are united in understanding people with intellectual disabilities in an environment of equality, respect, and acceptance.

For more information about the South Dakota Special Olympics Summer Games, contact Megan Davidson, Director of Strategic Communications & Tourism at Megan@VermillionChamber.com or call the VCDC offices at 605.624.5571.