

**DATE:** May 27, 2015

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**SPECIAL OLYMPICS SUMMER GAMES 2015**

**Everyone Competes, Everyone Plays & Everyone is tested like Champions**

**Event Highlights**

* Grand Marshal, Lt. General Stephen R. Lanza, I Corps, Joint Base Lewis McChord
* Special Olympics “Healthy Athletes”…1,100 Free Health Screenings & 1,100 Shoes to be distributed, Saturday 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. & Sunday 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Cowen Stadium
* Fun-Fitness: Baseline inventory testing that provides athletes and coaches with key information on successful training and competition. (Saturday, May 30, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Watkins Field)

Nearly 2,800 Special Olympics athletes will compete in the 2015 Summer Games on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, May 29-May 31. Over the three-day athletic event athletes in soccer, track & field, swimming (King County Aquatics Center), cycling and powerlifting will showcase strength, skill, courage and the belief that EVERYONE competes.

**“Flame of Hope” Summer Games Torch**

Nearly 300 Law Enforcement Officers from across Washington are running the Special Olympics “Flame of Hope” from the Lakewood Police Department beginning at 5 p.m. and arriving at the base through the main gates at approximately 6 p.m. Following the arrival on the base, Law Enforcement Officers will present the “Flame of Hope” at Opening Ceremonies beginning at 7:30 p.m.

**Opening Ceremony Presented by the T-Mobile Foundation**

Opening Ceremonies will take place Friday, May 29 (7:30 p.m.) at Joint Base Lewis McChord Hangar 1. The 60-minute event will feature Grand Marshal Lt. General Stephen Lanza, the parade of athletes, live music and the arrival of the “Flame of Hope” escorted by nearly 300 officers from around the State of Washington.

**Media Access Joint Base Lewis-McChord**

Media are invited to cover Opening Ceremonies, Friday. Media are also invited to cover athletic competition at Joint Base Lewis-McChord from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday. For more information about Special Olympic Washington, contact Dan Wartelle (206) 795-0965. ***For base access, contact JBLM Public Affairs Office at (253) 967-0152.0148 to request and escort/directions.*** After 4 p.m. Friday, call (253) 967-0015 and ask for the Public Affairs Officer on call.

**Special Olympics Summer Games**

**What:** 2015 Special Olympics Summer Games

**When:** May 29-May 31 (Opening Ceremonies is May 29, from 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m., JBLM, Hangar 1)

**Where:** Joint Base Lewis McChord & the King County Aquatics Center

**Who:** 2800 Special Olympics Washington Athletes from across the state

**Directions**

1. Opening Ceremonies: Please take exit #125…the guard at the gate and signs along the way will direct you to Hanger 1 on the Air Force side of the base
2. Games Weekend (Saturday/Sunday): Please take exit #120 (Main Gate)...the guard at the gate and signs along the way will direct your crew to Cowan Stadium were Track & Field, Soccer, Cycling and Powerlifting will be taking place.

**About Special Olympics Washington**

Special Olympics Washington provides year-round sports training and competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. By participating in sports, physical fitness and healthcare education programs, Special Olympics Washington athletes increase self-confidence and social skills, improve physical and motor skills, and have better success in leading more independent lives.

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