



**After More Than Two Years, Special Olympics Washington State Spring Games to Take Place Friday, June 17 – Sunday, June 19**

*More than 1,800 athletes, Unified partners and coaches will compete in venues in Federal Way and Tacoma*

**June 17, 2022 – SEATTLE** - After a more than two-year pause in hosting state games due to the pandemic, Special Olympics Washington is excited to welcome athletes, Unified partners, and coaches back to competition and proclaim, “We are back!”

At this weekend’s Special Olympics Washington State Spring Games, athletes from across the state will be going for gold as they compete in athletics (track and field), powerlifting, soccer, and swimming. The competitions are free to attend and the public is invited to cheer on the athletes.

Venues for the State Spring Games are:

- Pacific Lutheran University - Opening Ceremony, Soccer, Track and Field
- Joint Base Lewis-McChord (Carey Theater) - Powerlifting
- King County Aquatic Center - Swimming

<p><b>Friday, June 17</b> 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Opening Ceremony for State Spring Games at Pacific Lutheran University’s Olson Auditorium co-emceed by KING 5 Anchor and Reporter Shanté Sumpter and Special Olympics Washington Athlete Austin Landon.</p> <p>Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The parade of athletes</li> <li>• Performance by the University of Washington Husky Drumline</li> <li>• Lighting of the cauldron by Federal Way Police Officer Donovan Heavener and Special Olympics Athlete Colton Schmidt</li> </ul>
<p><b>Saturday, June 18</b> 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Competitions and medal ceremonies for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powerlifting (JBLM)</li> <li>• Soccer (PLU)</li> <li>• Swimming (King County Aquatic Center)</li> <li>• Athletics (PLU)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sunday, June 19</b> 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Competitions and medal ceremonies for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soccer (PLU)</li> <li>• Athletics (PLU)</li> </ul>

For a complete schedule and venue information, please visit <https://specialolympicswashington.org/event/2022-state-spring-games/>

**About Special Olympics Washington**

Special Olympics Washington provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for thousands of children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community. Learn more at [SpecialOlympicsWashington.org](https://SpecialOlympicsWashington.org).

###

**Media Contact:** Jaymelina Esmele, Special Olympics Washington, [jesmele@sowa.org](mailto:jesmele@sowa.org), (206) 578-3339