



**Special Olympics**  
North Carolina

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Volunteers Needed for 2009 Special Olympics North Carolina Basketball & Cheerleading  
Tournament in Winston-Salem & Clemmons**

*Local Special Olympics Programs Statewide Invited to Compete in State-level Event*

**RALEIGH, N.C.** –More than 500 volunteers are needed for the 2009 Special Olympics North Carolina Basketball & Cheerleading Tournament to take place in Winston-Salem and Clemmons March 7-8, according to SONC President/CEO Keith L. Fishburne. Athletes from 52 local Special Olympics programs across the state will compete in the event.

Volunteers are needed to fill positions such as announcer, court assistant, venue support, volunteer registration and cheer team. Businesses, civic organizations, churches and youth groups are encouraged to get involved or form teams and be fans in the stands at the tournament, cheering on the athletes as they go for the gold. All volunteers will receive a free T-shirt and position-specific training. Interested individuals can register online at [www.sonc.net](http://www.sonc.net). Group registration forms are available on the Web site to download and mail in.

Local Special Olympics programs that received quota for the event represent the following counties/agencies: Alamance, Alexander, Beaufort/Hyde, Brunswick, Buncombe, Burke, Cabarrus, Caldwell, Caswell Center, Catawba, Chatham, Clay, Cleveland, Cumberland, Currituck, Dare, Davidson, Davie, Durham, Forsyth, Gaston, Gates, Guilford/Greensboro, Guilford/High Point, Iredell, Jackson, Johnston, Lee, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Mitchell, Moore, Murdoch Center, Nash, New Hanover, Onslow, Orange, Pasquotank /Camden, Person, Pitt, Qualla Boundary, Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, Surry, Union, Vance, Wake, Watauga, Wayne and Wilkes.

The tournament will feature competition among nearly 1,000 athletes from across the state in basketball individual skills, three-on-three and five-on-five team competition and cheerleading. Competition venues are: Carter Vocational High School - **Individual Skills**; Forsyth Country Day School - **Three-on-three**; Carver High School, Fulton Family YMCA, Glenn High School, North Forsyth High School, Salem College, St. John's Lutheran Church, Summit School, The Salvation Army Ken Carlson Boys & Girls Club - **Five-on-five**; Reagan High School - **Cheerleading**.

SONC programming is made possible by the following statewide partners: North Carolina Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics (**International, National and Statewide**); Duke Fuqua School of Business, Knights of Columbus, NC Department of Health & Human Services (**Championship**); Progress Energy, Civitan International, Credit Suisse (**Gold**); Wachovia, ABB, Henry Wurst, Macy's (**Silver**); Procter & Gamble, US Airways, Best Buy, Kerr Cares For Kids, NC State Employees Combined Campaign, Sheetz, NC National Guard, A Small Miracle, Akzo Nobel (**Bronze**); Tannenbaum Sternberger Foundation, Coca-Cola Bottling Co. Consolidated, Citi Smith Barney, American Express, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of NC, Williams Mullen, Paetec, Jersey Mike's, Rotary Club of Clemmons and Coldwell Banker Howard Perry and Walston (**Honorary Delegation**).

Event sponsors include: US Airways, Best Buy and Rotary Club of Clemmons.

*Special Olympics North Carolina offers year-round sports training and competition for more than 38,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities. These athletes inspire greatness through their success and provide motivation to the thousands of coaches, sports officials, local program committee members and event organizers involved in Special Olympics statewide. SONC offers Olympic-type competition in 20 sports on local and state level. It is among the largest Special Olympics programs in North America in terms of athlete registration.*

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