



**Special Olympics**  
*Texas*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** July 5, 2007

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**Texas Athletes to Attend Team USA Training Camp for  
Special Olympics World Summer Games**

*62 Texas athletes prepare to compete in China this October*

**AUSTIN** – **Special Olympics Texas athletes from across the state** will join athletes from around the nation for the 2007 Special Olympics Team USA Training Camp this month. The Texas athletes (*names and bios are available upon request*) will travel to Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee for the camp, **July 12-16**.

The Team USA Training Camp will begin the final countdown and preparation before Team USA athletes and coaches travel to the **2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Shanghai, China** this October. Featured events for the camp include a Unified Softball game hosted by country superstar and Team USA Spokesperson Jo Dee Messina who will also perform a small acoustic concert, and a “Night in Shanghai” which presents Chinese language and culture to the Team USA delegation.

“We are thrilled that we can offer 62 athletes this once in a lifetime opportunity to travel to China to compete in the World Games,” said Margaret Larsen, President and CEO of Special Olympics Texas. “What an incredible testament to the determination, strength and skills of our athletes. They have already made the Lone Star State proud.”

Team USA will depart for the Special Olympics World Summer Games on September 27. This Games is the largest international sporting event to happen in 2007, bringing together nearly 7,500 athletes from 165 countries with support from tens of thousands of volunteers, family members and spectators, and offers a world stage to showcase the Special Olympics movement on a new level, celebrating the abilities and accomplishments of people with intellectual disabilities and fostering a new global vision of acceptance.

Approximately 400 athletes will represent the United States. Team USA will compete in 12 individual sports: athletics, aquatics, bocce, bowling, cycling, equestrian, golf, gymnastics, powerlifting, roller skating, sailing, and tennis, as well as four team sports: basketball, soccer, softball, volleyball.

**(MORE)**

***About Special Olympics Texas***

Special Olympics Texas is a privately funded non-profit organization, providing year-round sports training and athletic competition for 25,841 children and adults with intellectual disabilities [mental retardation] in the Lone Star State. For more information, visit [www.specialolympicstexas.org](http://www.specialolympicstexas.org) or call 1.800.876.JOIN.

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