



## **Special Olympics** *Wisconsin*

March 19, 2004

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### **Tomahawk woman chosen as coach for World Winter Games in Japan**

Madison - Washington, D.C.-based Special Olympics International (SOI) recently named Bonnie Kahn of Tomahawk as a cross country skiing coach for the 2005 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Nagano, Japan on Feb. 22-March 5, 2005.

As the coach for cross country skiing, Kahn will travel to Nagano and provide technical assistance and chaperoning support to the cross country athletes of Team USA. Coaches are also responsible for communication of all information updates to their assigned athletes, their family members and local coaches. Coaches are also responsible for ensuring that all of their athletes are training with appropriate supervision. Each coach is to ensure the athletes and coaches of Team USA experience the athletic, physical and social benefits of participating in a World Games.

Kahn, an agency manager with Tomahawk Special Olympics, has been active with Special Olympics for more than 17 years, helping on the local, state and international levels. On the local level, she is an agency manager for Tomahawk area athletes and has been a coach there for 17 years. On the state level she has served on the Area Management Team for the State Winter Games in Wausau and has taught various sports seminars and coaches clinics at conferences and schools. Nationally, Kahn served as a coach for the pre-World Games as well as the 2001 World Games held in Anchorage, Alaska.

“I feel coaching Special Olympics is what I was meant to do with my life,” said Kahn. “There's nothing I enjoy doing more than working with the athletes. I feel so honored to have been chosen to be a coach for Team USA at the 2005 World Games in Japan.”

Special Olympics Team USA will compete in seven sports at the World Games which includes alpine skiing, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, snowboarding, speed skating, figure skating and floor hockey. Team USA consists of approximately 200 athletes and 50 coaches representing all 50 United States and the District of Columbia. Over 3,500 Special Olympics Team USA family members and friends are expected to travel to the Games to cheer for their athletes sharing in one of the biggest moments in their lives. Worldwide, approximately 2,500 athletes, 650 coaches and official delegates, 10,000 volunteers, 28,000 family members and friends, and 150,000 spectators are expected to be in Japan to celebrate and be a part of the Games. This is the 8th Special Olympics World Winter Games.

Special thanks to Columbia Sportswear and Sage Hospitality as the sponsors for Team USA. Special Olympics is a year-round program of sports training and competition for individuals with cognitive disabilities. Nearly 10,000 athletes train and compete in Wisconsin through 17 different Olympic-type summer and winter sports. For more information on Special Olympics Wisconsin, or the World Games, contact Kelly Kloepping at 800/552-1324, or visit [www.specialolympicswisconsin.org](http://www.specialolympicswisconsin.org).

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