



Special Olympics *Wisconsin*

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Neillsville man chosen as delegate for World Winter Games in Japan

Madison - Washington, D.C.-based Special Olympics International (SOI) recently named Dean Glaze of Neillsville as a volunteer Technical Delegate for the 2005 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Nagano, Japan on Feb. 22-March 5, 2005.

As the technical delegate for cross country skiing, Glaze will represent SOI as the key sports advisor for the sport of cross country skiing and is responsible for ensuring that the Games Organizing Committee (GOC) of the 2005 Special Olympics World Winter Games correctly interprets, implements and enforces Special Olympics Sports Rules and modifications, the rules of the relevant International Sport Federation and current rule changes. Glaze will also advise the GOC Sport Commissioner on the technical requirements of the specific sport to ensure a safe, quality and dignified sports environment.

Glaze, a special education teacher with Neillsville High School, has been active with Special Olympics for more than 25 years, helping on the local, state and international levels. On the local level, he is an agency manager for Neillsville athletes as well as a coach. On the state level he has served on the Area Management Team for the State Winter Games in Wausau and was also given the opportunity to serve as the Technical Delegate for the Pre-World Games held in Anchorage, Alaska.

In addition, Glaze was the recipient of the Roger Kasper Special Service Award, created in memory of Roger Kasper, a past Special Olympics Wisconsin board member and long-time volunteer. This award is one of the highest honors bestowed by Special Olympics Wisconsin to an individual or family for long-standing support of the program.

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 Klopping at 800/552-1324, or visit www.specialolympicswisconsin.org.

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