



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 8, 2011

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Special Olympics Oklahoma
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Special Olympics Oklahoma *STARS OF THE FUTURE* Kick-Off Event

Event at Yukon High School for future Special Olympics athletes between ages 3 and 7

Tulsa, Okla. The *Stars of the Future* kick-off event for future Special Olympics athletes will occur on Friday, April 15, 2011 at Yukon High School football field, 1029 Garth Brooks Blvd., Yukon, Oklahoma. The event begins at 9:45 a.m. and concludes with a traditional Parade of Athletes and Awards ceremony at 12:30 p.m.

"We are very excited about our kick-off event for *Stars of the Future* at Yukon High School," said Julie Moore, Special Olympics Oklahoma Young Athletes Program Director. "This event is introducing our youngest athletes to the world of Special Olympics. We have more than 90 athletes from around the central Oklahoma area coming to participate in this event. All of the *Stars of the Future* athletes are between the ages of 3 and 7. Many of these children have never participated in an event like this. We are excited to welcome these coaches, athletes and families to the Special Olympics Oklahoma family."

Young Athletes *Stars of the Future* is an innovative sports play program for children with intellectual disabilities, designed to introduce them to the world of sports prior to Special Olympics eligibility at age eight. Since its inception in 1968, Special Olympics has established itself as a preeminent global organization offering sports training and competition opportunities to people with intellectual disabilities ages eight and above. Over the years, families of children too young to compete looked for avenues to join the movement. Special Olympics can now welcome these future athletes and families through Young Athletes *Stars of the Future*, a developmentally appropriate play program for children with intellectual disabilities ages three through seven.

Oklahoma's Young Athletes *Stars of the Future* program is sponsored by Walmart.

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The Mission of Special Olympics is to provide a year-round program of sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Today 9,500 Special Olympics Oklahoma athletes participate in more than 120 sports competitions and training clinics every year. Competition is offered in 15 official sports. There are thousands of volunteer opportunities available. Visit www.sook.org or call 918-481-1234 for more information.

[Stars of the Future Mission Statement](#)

The mission of Young Athletes *Stars of the Future* program is to identify athletes between the ages of three and seven and to get them involved early with the area and state programs. Early involvement will help the area and state program grow at a consistent pace over the years and ensure that the mission of Special Olympics is achieved at all levels.