



*For Immediate Release
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Nekoosa Resident to Coach Special Olympics World Games in Greece

Madison- Washington, D.C.-based Special Olympics International (SOI) recently named Deb Moore Gruenloh as a Team USA Athletics (track and field) coach for the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Athens, Greece to be held June 25-July 4, 2011.

Team USA includes athletes and coaches from all 50 states and 185 countries, including two athletes from Wisconsin—Rebecca Stelpflug of Menomonee Falls competing in swimming and Christopher Mark of Burlington competing in track and field. As coach, Moore-Gruenloh will assist in training essentials for the Team USA track team and communication of all information updates to their assigned athletes, family members and local coaches. Team USA coaches are also responsible for ensuring that all athletes are training with appropriate supervision and ensuring the athletes and coaches experience the athletic, physical and social benefits of participating in a World Games.

Moore-Gruenloh has been an early childhood special education teacher for the Wisconsin Rapids School District for more than 28 years, volunteering with Special Olympics for more than 23 years. She's done everything from coaching locally in her home town in a variety of sports, to serving on the state Special Olympics Wisconsin Agency Management committee, to serving as a trainer for other coaches and agency managers in the state and also serving as a track and field coach for Team Wisconsin at the FIRST EVER 2005 Special Olympics National Games in Iowa (happens every four years). Most recently, she also was a coach at the Second ever National Games in Nebraska this past July. On the national level, she, again, served as a track and field coach at the 2007 Special Olympics World Games in China.

Most impressively, Deb is a past recipient of the 2006 Roger Kasper Memorial Award, an award bestowed upon one volunteer each year that goes way above and beyond the call of duty for Special Olympics Wisconsin.

The 2011 World Summer Games are expected to draw more than 7,500 athletes from around the world, as well as tens of thousands of volunteers, event officials, coaches, families, spectators and media representatives from around the world. The Special Olympics World Summer Games in Athens will be the largest sporting event in the world in 2011 featuring 22 Olympic-type sports!

Thank you to Kwik Trip and the Law Enforcement Torch Run, the Mission Partners of SOWI, enabling the organization to hold nearly 80 competitions and five state tournaments per year. SOWI provides year-round training and competition opportunities through 18 different Olympic-type sports for nearly 10,000 individuals with cognitive disabilities. Join our online community by following us on Twitter and Facebook! For more information, visit SpecialOlympicsWisconsin.org or call (800) 552-1324 or visit www.athens2011.org for World Games specifics.

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To obtain photos or an interview with the delegation attending World Games, please contact Kelly Klopping at 608-442-5662.

