



Special Olympics
Wisconsin
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For Immediate Release
Oct. 1, 2010

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Menomonee Falls Athlete Qualifies for Special Olympics World Games in Greece

Madison- Special Olympics athlete Rebecca Stelpflug, age 20 of Menomonee Falls, was recently selected to compete at 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 Stelpflug who is one of two Wisconsin athletes, competing in swimming.

Stelpflug has been involved in Special Olympics for 10 years, training in swimming, golf, basketball and bowling. She also recently returned from the second ever Special Olympics National Games this past July in Nebraska with THREE gold medals and a 4th place ribbon in her swimming competitions.

Outside of Special Olympics, she enjoys art, sports and music. "It [Special Olympics] has built my self esteem and I get to meet lots of new friends," said Stelpflug, "and it gives me the chance to compete in many sports which makes me happy." Honors include the "student of the month" award THREE times and being on the honor roll for the last five years.

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!

Dennis Alldridge, President of Special Olympics Wisconsin added, "Athens provides outstanding venues and demonstrates the knowledge, understanding and excitement around our athletes, the goals of the movement and the overall experience expected from a World Games event." Olympic organizers chose Athens as the Games host with its ancient tradition of sports excellence as the city is working overtime to provide an outstanding global platform to showcase the courage, dedication and talents of the athletes of Special Olympics.

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.