

Press Release

State of Maryland
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services



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DOC Tug of War For Special Olympics Expects Record Turnout of Teams From State Correctional Facilities

***Wednesday, June 1 at the Jessup DOC Range
Off Toulson and Brock Bridge Roads***

Towson, MD (May 31, 2011)---One of the most colorful fundraisers in the nation for Special Olympics happens tomorrow, June 1 in Jessup: the Division of Correction's annual Tug of War and Torch Run and Walk for Special Olympics.

Since 1993, the Maryland Division of Correction (DOC) has been one of the leading fundraisers for Special Olympics Maryland, raising more than \$235,000. The marquis event--- and a colorful spectacle--- is the Commissioner's Cup Tug of War, an actual competitive rope-pull that this year will feature more than 20 teams--- including all-women teams--- from every region of the state. ***The Tug of War is tomorrow, Wednesday, June 1 at 10:00 a.m. at the Jessup DOC firing range, located off Toulson and Brock Bridge Roads in Jessup.***

Members of the media who wish to come early will be rewarded with a variety of colorful events: before the actual Tug of War, the annual Torch Run and Walk begins (9 a.m.), as participants carry the Special Olympics torch as they circle the six-facility Jessup DOC compound.

The weighing-in of the Tug of War teams (beginning at 9 a.m.) is an interesting event, since some of the seven-member heavyweight teams will likely exceed 2,200 pounds.

The opening ceremony, at approximately 9 a.m., will also feature Special Olympians being "commissioned" as honorary correctional officers, and members of Special Olympics Maryland will speak about the importance of this event.

For years, Special Olympics Maryland has remarked that DPSCS employees are the number one t-shirt sellers in the entire state, as well as one of the top overall fundraising groups. While Maryland State Police rightfully deserve much credit for their amazing Polar Bear Plunge, DOC and DPSCS staff deserve recognition as well for this colorful event, which is also a major fundraiser.

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**2010 DIVISION OF CORRECTION
TUG OF WAR FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS
JUNE 1 AT THE JESSUP DOC RANGE
OFF TOULSON AND BROCK BRIDGE ROADS**

Times below are approximate and dependent upon final number of competing teams

- 8 a.m.** **Weigh-in begins for Tug of War teams**
- 9:00 a.m.** **Opening Ceremony, featuring Special Olympians “commissioned” by DOC Commissioner Mike Stouffer as honorary correctional officers**
- 9:05** **Runners and walkers leave to circle the Jessup DOC grounds with the Special Olympics Torch**
- 9:10-10:00** **Tug of War weigh-in continues to determine light- and heavyweight teams**
- 10:30-11** **Tug of War begins with lightweight teams competing first**
- 11—1** **Free picnic, with food provided by DOC and Maryland Correctional Enterprises**

TO GET THERE: Take Maryland Route 175 to Brock Bridge Road. Proceed approximately 7/10 of a mile to the tall guard tower on the right. Turn right onto Toulson Road and proceed to the driveway on the left that leads to the Jessup DOC range.