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## MISSOULA PARKS AND RECREATION PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

*For immediate release through June 15, 2019*

### **Missoula welcomes Montana Senior Olympics June 13 - 15**

Over 310 senior athletes from Montana and throughout the U.S. will be in Missoula this week for the 34th annual Montana Senior Olympics. Missoula Parks and Recreation is hosting the Games at Fort Missoula Regional Park and other locations throughout the city this Thursday through Saturday, June 13 to 15.

The Montana Senior Olympics is a member organization of the National Senior Games, a 20-sport, biennial competition for men and women 50 and over that is the largest multi-sport event in the world for seniors. Montana's Games feature 13 sports and over 68 events for men and women, ranging from track and field, to racquet sports, to archery, bowling, swimming and golf. The Games kick off Thursday at Fort Missoula Regional Park (FMRP) with pickleball, tennis, and 10k and 5k road races, plus race walking at Big Sky High School.

With the opening of Fort Missoula Regional Park in 2017 and 2018, Missoula was a logical choice to host the statewide event, says Parks and Recreation's Ryan Yearous. "Parks and Recreation is thrilled to be hosting the Sr. Olympics at the new sports facilities in Fort Missoula Regional Park. Between FMRP, Splash Montana, and many other great local event venues, we're expecting some fierce competition and exciting sports action here in Missoula this weekend."

Friday's events include horseshoes, tennis and pickleball at FMRP, basketball at the City Life community gym, bowling at Westside Lanes, swimming at Splash Montana, cycling on the Bitterroot Trail and race walking at Big Sky High. On Saturday, the action continues with track and field at Big Sky, badminton at City Life, archery at the new Hellgate Archery Range, plus cycling on the Bitterroot Trail and swimming at Splash Montana.

Yearous says over 70 percent of the competitors are traveling from out of town for the 3-day event. Destination Missoula estimates the economic impact of visitor spending for the Games to be around \$240,000.\*

Volunteers are needed for all 3 days of the event as course monitors, scorekeepers and more. Interested volunteers can view the available sports and time slots at <http://bit.ly/2019MSOvolunteers>. Call or text Ryan Yearous at 239-2283 to sign up. Volunteers receive a commemorative t-shirt and the gratitude of participants.

For a complete schedule of events, visit Parks and Recreation's website at [www.missoulaparks.org](http://www.missoulaparks.org).

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**Media note: event schedule attached.**

*\*The estimated economic impact of the MT Senior Olympics was generated by the Destinations International Event Impact Calculator, designed and supported by Tourism Economics. The calculator has been uniquely developed for Missoula incorporating nine credible data sources and measures the direct impact of visitor spending on businesses, employment, income and taxes.*

FOR RELEASE JUNE 11, 2019

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