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**Dutchess County Figure Skater Going for Gold at Special Olympics World Games 2025**

**Poughkeepsie, NY (December 3, 2024)** – The Dutchess Figure Skating Club (DFSC) proudly celebrates figure skater Ryan Chin, who will represent Team USA at the 2025 Special Olympics World Games in Turin, Italy. Chin, a member of the club training at the McCann Ice Arena in Poughkeepsie, has dedicated the past 11 years of his life to honing his craft and inspiring those who share the ice with him.

“It’s a dream come true to represent the USA at the Special Olympics World Games in Turin,” said skater and Wappingers Falls, New York resident, Ryan Chin. “Skating has taught me many valuable life skills and given me a place in the community where I feel at home. I’m proud to show what hard work and dedication can achieve. I can’t wait to meet other athletes from around the world, share this amazing experience with them, and try real Italian food! I’m ready to bring home a gold medal win for Team USA.”

Chin, 23, began skating at age 12 in a therapeutic ice skating program offered by the McCann Ice Arena rink, quickly excelling through figure skating levels and skills. He began competing in Special Olympics New York figure skating competitions at age 15, earning seven gold medals in seven competition seasons. With determination, devotion, and support from his coaches, Heather O’Connor, Deirdre Bonanno, Sergei Sakhnovskiy, and fellow skaters, Chin has been able to do the impossible.

The Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. It offers opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, and experience joy, fostering a spirit of inclusion, friendship, and community. Chin’s qualification for the World Games reflects his tenacity and passion for figure skating and embodies the mission of the Special Olympics.

“Ryan’s drive and love for figure skating has been an inspiration to everyone at the McCann Ice Arena,” said Heather O’Connor, one of Chin’s coaches and Learn to Skate Director at the McCann Ice Arena. “We’re incredibly proud of his accomplishment and can’t wait to cheer him on as he takes on the world stage in Turin.”

The Special Olympics World Games is the largest inclusive sporting event across the globe, showcasing the talents of over 1,500 athletes with disabilities from more than 190 countries. The

2025 Games will take place in Turin, Italy, from March 8 through March 16, 2025, bringing together thousands of athletes, coaches, and fans to celebrate excellence in sports and the power of inclusion.

To help Chin achieve this monumental goal, the DFSC asks the community to share and donate to Chin's [JustGiving](#) page

([https://www.justgiving.com/page/ryanchin?utm\\_medium=fundraising&utm\\_content=page%2Fryanchin&utm\\_source=copyLink&utm\\_campaign=pfp-share](https://www.justgiving.com/page/ryanchin?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fryanchin&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pfp-share)) which will cover the costs of travel for him, his parents, and a coach, and entry fees into the figure skating competition in March. In addition, the community is invited to follow Chin's exciting journey through the Dutchess Figure Skating Club's Instagram account: [@dutchessfsc](#).

Chin graduated from Beacon High School with his High School Equivalency Diploma in 2022. He currently lives in Wappingers Falls, New York, with his parents, brother, and sister.

For more information on the Special Olympics, the Special Olympics World Games, and how to support other athletes, please visit [www.specialolympics.org](http://www.specialolympics.org). To register yourself or a child for the McCann Ice Area's year-round learn-to-skate, figure skating, and hockey programs, head to [www.mccannicearena.org](http://www.mccannicearena.org).

### **About the Dutchess Figure Skating Club (DFSC)**

The Dutchess Figure Skating Club is a US Figure Skating-affiliated club that empowers aspiring figure skaters of every age. The club and its coaches support skaters throughout their chosen discipline, creating a safe environment that allows members to participate, develop, and achieve success in the sport of figure skating. The club and its coaches offer year-round lessons, test sessions, competitions, exhibitions, ice shows, and a variety of other programming options for their skaters and the surrounding community. To inquire about figure skating lessons, contact [learntoskate@mjncenter.org](mailto:learntoskate@mjncenter.org).

### **About the Special Olympics & Special Olympics World Games**

Through the power of sports, the Special Olympics inspires people with intellectual disabilities to discover new strengths, abilities, skills, and success. The Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of 30+ Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in a sharing of gifts and skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community. For more information, visit [www.specialolympics.org](http://www.specialolympics.org).

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**Editor's Note:** A headshot and photos of Ryan Chin can be found [linked here](#), courtesy of the Dutchess Figure Skating Club.

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