



Several of our STARS staff, interns and volunteers spent their Tuesday evenings throughout the first half of summer training with SOSY (Special Olympics Steamboat Yampa Valley) Softball and Bocce Ball athletes on Klumker Field at Howelsen Hill. This training paid off on when the teams traveled to Grand Junction, CO on July 29th and 30th to compete in the Western Region Special Olympics Summer Softball and Bocce regional tournament.

Thanks to the large number of committed volunteers, local Special Olympics softball participants were able to enter 2 unified teams in the tournament and brought home Gold in one division and Silver in the other. A unified team is made up of both Special Olympics athletes and certified Class A partners – positions are assigned on a 1 athlete, then 1 partner basis, i.e. if the pitcher is a partner, the catcher must be an athlete. The games were tremendously exciting and there were amazing plays made all around!

In addition, for the first time, SOSY appeared in the Bocce competition of the summer tournament and, despite their newness to the sport, came home with quite a bit of bling – 3 golds, 2 silvers, 1 bronze and one 4th place. Pretty impressive for sure!

Special thanks to Meghan Doliff, Emily Olson, Bree Pollack, Melissa Pollack, Riley Sielaff, and Jeremy Justus for their enthusiasm and volunteer spirit, and Susan and Ron for facilitating. All of you brightened the summer for our local athletes!