

Registration is open for the 26th annual Cornhusker State Games, set for June 19-27 in Lincoln and the surrounding area.

Lacrosse, Jiu Jitsu, and Ultimate Frisbee will make their Cornhusker State Games debut and bring the sport total to 64.

The amateur sports festival for Nebraskans of all ages and abilities is expected to draw more than 13,000 athletes.

All registered athletes will receive a free shirt, yearbook and a chance to win a free one-year lease on a brand new Mazda 5 from Anderson Auto Group in the CSG grand prize drawing.

Consolation prizes include a \$1,500 jewelry item from Borsheim's and free airfare for two from Midwest Airlines.

Winners are chosen randomly among all games entrants.

Registered participants also receive free admission to SportFest and the Olympic-style Opening Ceremonies, set for June 25 at Seacrest Field.

SportFest, which begins at 5 p.m. includes a free meal, musical entertainment, inflatable games and interactive displays.

The Opening ceremonies, at 8 p.m., will feature free-style moto-cross riders, skydivers, fireworks and a mystery athlete lighting the games caldron.

The Games Torch Run will begin May 3 west of Scottsbluff and conclude May 27 at Haymarket Park in Lincoln.

There is no charge to carry the CSG Torch and runners each receive a commemorative shirt, compliments of the Nebraska Air National Guard and Army National Guard, co-sponsors of the Torch Run. Local observances are being planned in 20 communities along the route.

Five \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to Cornhusker State Games athletes.

Applicants must complete an application and participate in at least one 2010 CSG sport. Application criteria include academic achievements, athletic achievements, community service and an essay portion. The scholarships are funded by the Gallup Organization.

Because of the earlier-than-normal competition dates, prospective participants are encouraged to check the sport information closely and register early. The games, usually held the final two weekends in July, have been moved up on a one-year basis to make way for the Special Olympics National Championships coming to Lincoln in July.

The final entry deadline is June 7, but athletes can save \$5 if registered by May 31.

Officials announced Monday that USA Olympic Bobsledding Gold Medalist Curtis Tomasevicz, who served as the games' mystery torchlighter upon making the USA team in 2006, has recorded a series of radio public service announcements promoting the games.

Nebraska radio stations will begin airing the announcements next week. Tomasevicz participated in Cornhusker State Games Track and Field as a youth.

Officials have also announced that Anderson Auto Group and BlueCross BlueShield have joined BNSF Railways as Platinum Partners, the highest level of commitment to the 2010 Cornhusker State Games.

Other corporate partners include: Gold level: Arby's, Bizco, Double Eagle Beverage, Downtown Optimist Club of Lincoln, Farmer's Mutual Insurance Company of Nebraska, Huskers Illustrated, KOLN-KGIN, Lincoln Benefit Life, Lincoln Journal-Star, Midwest Office Automations, Mr. Goodcents Subs & Pasta, Nebraska Lottery, Sandhills Publishing, St. Elizabeth Regional Medical Center, Subway, Three Eagles Communications and VIPA Solutions.

Silver level: Applebee's, Frito-Lay, Hy-Vee, Kidwell, Lincoln Convention & Visitors Bureau, Lincoln Orthopaedic Center, Lincoln Saltdogs, Nebraska Public Power District, Pepsi-Cola of Lincoln, ScreenCo, TierOne Bank, Time Warner Cable and Tobacco Free Nebraska.

Bronze level: Allied Insurance, Ameritas Life Insurance Corp., Bison, Inc., Borsheim's, Casey's General Stores, Chief Industries, ConAgra Foods/Lincoln Snacks, Country Inn & Suites, Holiday Inn Downtown, James Arthur Vineyards, Luxury Limousines, Max Muscle, Molex, Nebraska Beef Council, Nebraska Sheriffs Association, Nebraska's Home Improvement Center, Nebraska Orthopaedic & Sports Medicine, Pegler Sysco Food Services, Planet Earth Distilled Drinking Water, Premier Outdoor Properties, Roberts Dairy, Runza, Scheels, Snap Fitness, Sowers Club of Lincoln and U-Stop.

To register or see a complete schedule of events, visit www.CornhuskerStateGames.com. Those with questions can also call 402-471-2544 for more information.