



2007 Special Olympics Global Youth Summit Shanghai, China 2 - 11 October 2007

Fact Sheet

DESCRIPTION:

During the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Shanghai, we will gather young leaders with and without intellectual disability who will challenge their peers around the world to unify around acceptance, inclusion and sport. Special Olympics will hold the fourth Global Youth Summit at the 2007 World Summer Games, where more than 7,000 athletes from nearly 170 countries will compete from 2-11 October in Shanghai, China. Fifty eight young people with and without an intellectual disability from the same school or community will spend these 10 days leading our youth movement by discussing opportunities, sharing their successful practices and resolving challenges for expanding the movement worldwide, including how to involve youth through their schools and communities. Youth Leaders will make a difference in their community by challenging their peers to commit to ban the use of the “R” (retard) word and to get involved in their local Special Olympics Programs.

HIGHLIGHTS:

While in Shanghai, the summit youth will have the chance to spread Special Olympics messages through a televised youth forum, conducting real-time webinars linking schools and youth programs around the world, writing blogs, providing podcasts for downloading, and writing stories that will be published on websites and home town papers.

Following the summit and leading up to the 2009 World Winter Games in Boise, Idaho, the youth leaders will serve on Special Olympics’ Global Youth Advisory Council, recruit their peers to join the Special Olympics movement; offer an ongoing youth perspective, ensuring that movement messages and tactics are relevant to them; share



information, ideas and motivation via Web casts, e-mail, chat rooms, websites and blogs; serve as media spokessteens.

PARTICIPANTS:

We will bring together 58 young people and 29 adult chaperones for the entire Games. They will represent every Region and 16 countries in the Special Olympics movement. A pair of students from a middle/intermediate school or high/secondary school (ages 12-18) will consist of one Special Olympics athlete and a general education school peer. Each team will be chaperoned by a Special Olympics Program-approved adult.

REGION

- **AFRICA:**
Namibia, South Africa

- **ASIA-PACIFIC:**
Australia, India, Malaysia

- **EAST ASIA-CHINA:**
Korea, Macau, China (13 Provinces)

- **EUROPE-EURASIA:**
Kazakhstan, Serbia

- **LATIN AMERICA:**
Argentina, Dominican Republic

- **MIDDLE EAST-NORTH AFRICA:**
Egypt, Lebanon

- **NORTH AMERICA:**
Canada (Ontario), United States (South Carolina)

For more information contact:

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