



**Special
Olympics**



FACT SHEET: Special Olympics World Winter Games PyeongChang 2013

Special Olympics, a movement that unleashes the transformative power and joy of sport revealing the full potential of athletes with intellectual disabilities, is holding the next Special Olympics World Winter Games in PyeongChang, in the Republic of Korea, in January 2013. These games will unite the world through sports and celebrate the talents and abilities of people with intellectual disabilities, forming a new global vision of acceptance. The 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games are being held in the future site of the 2018 Winter Olympics.

Every two years since 1968, alternating between summer and winter sports, Special Olympics World Games are a flagship event of Special Olympics which highlights on a global scale Special Olympics work in sport, health, education and community.

When: 29 January - 5 February, 2013

Participants: More than 2,300 athletes and coaches representing more than 110 countries
Over 10,000 family, friends, volunteers and spectators

Where: PyeongChang, Republic of Korea

Vision: Founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Special Olympics is dedicated to promoting respect, acceptance, inclusion, and human dignity for people with intellectual disabilities through the power and joy of sports. The Special Olympics World Winter Games will be a milestone event celebrating differences in ability and promoting a more inclusive world for all.

Sports: Special Olympics athletes from every corner of the globe will travel to Korea to compete in 7 Olympic-type sports: alpine skiing, cross country skiing, snowboarding, snow shoeing, short track speed skating, figure skating, floor hockey; and also a floorball demonstration.

For more information you are kindly invited to visit the Games' official website: www.2013sopoc.org

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PyeongChang 2013: Special Events

Law Enforcement Torch Run® Final Leg -- An international team of approximately 133 members, which includes 95 Law Enforcement Officer runners, 10 Special Olympics athletes, and support personnel, will serve as Guardians of the Flame® as they receive the "Flame of Hope" in Seoul, in the Republic of Korea following the Flame Lighting Ceremony in Athens, Greece. To symbolize the significant contribution of law enforcement and the inclusion of Special Olympics athletes in this unified Torch Run, the Final Leg Team will conduct extensive runs and ceremonies for eight days in all of the Host Town Program communities and in many other towns throughout the Republic of Korea to heighten awareness of Special Olympics and the World Games. The Final Leg Team will safely deliver the "Flame of Hope" to the Opening Ceremony of the Special Olympics World Winter Games PyeongChang 2013.

Host Town – Delegations from around the world will be hosted throughout the Republic of Korea prior to their arrival to PyeongChang for the Games. The Host Town experiences give the Special Olympics athletes a chance to learn more about the Korean Culture, get acclimated to a new environment, and time zone, and helps citizens of the Republic of Korea to learn more about people with intellectual disabilities.

Opening Ceremony - An exciting and entertaining show with pageantry to open the World Games, held on 29 January 2013.

Global Youth Activation Summit – A youth-led assembly bringing youth with and without intellectual disabilities together for inspiring and educational discussion; including a Global Youth Rally engaging thousands of young people from the Republic of Korea and around the world in a celebration of unity.

Global Development Summit: Ending the Cycle of Poverty and Exclusion for People with Intellectual Disabilities – For the first time, more than 300 of the world's leaders - from government, business and industry, education, economic and social development, media, and more – will meet to examine the urgent needs of people with intellectual disabilities throughout the developing world. Taking place the day after Opening Ceremony, on 30 January 2013, the full-day event will focus on the unmet health and social needs of people with intellectual disabilities; build awareness of their gifts and potential contributions to society; and identify actions, and integrate those actions into national and international development strategies.

Healthy Athletes – Volunteer medical professionals will provide competing athletes a variety of free health assessments including vision, dental, audiology and physical therapy. Past Healthy Athletes screenings have changed the lives of many athletes, disclosing neglect and untreated health issues.

Closing Ceremony - An event to celebrate the accomplishments of the athletes and official close the World Games on 5 February 2013.

Again, for more information you are kindly invited to visit the Games' official website: www.2013sopoc.org