



SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
**WORLD WINTER GAMES**  
**AUSTRIA 2017**

Graz | Schladming | Ramsau | Styria

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14 - 25 March, 2017

*Heartbeat for the world*



# An Invitation

You are invited to support  
the world's largest sports and  
humanitarian event of 2017.

Austria has been awarded  
the bid to host the  
**2017 Special Olympics  
World Winter Games.**

There is no better world stage  
to create the awareness that leads to  
the acceptance and inclusion  
of people with intellectual disabilities.

An iconic and  
transforming event  
for Graz and  
Schladming,  
the nation and the  
whole world.  
Please join us in this  
extraordinary effort.

## The Vision

## The Issue

In the world today, there are nearly 200 million people with intellectual disabilities. They are often the most neglected, vulnerable and marginalized people in every society and culture.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver believed that through the power of sport, Special Olympics could transform the lives of the athletes and the world, one community at a time, through the acceptance and inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities.

By empowering people with intellectual disabilities, we are creating communities where everyone is included and respected.





## The Result

**4.7 million athletes**  
in 170 countries

**1.1 million coaches  
and volunteers**

**108,000 events**  
annually worldwide



Starting with the first International Games in 1968, Special Olympics World Games are flagship events held every two years, alternating between Summer Games and Winter Games.

### **Recent World Games Venues:**

2017 Graz / Schladming, Austria  
2015 Los Angeles, Calif., USA.  
2013 Pyeongchang, South Korea  
2011 Athens, Greece  
2009 Boise, Idaho, USA  
2007 Shanghai, China  
2005 Nagano, Japan  
2003 Dublin, Ireland





# An International Effort

The Special Olympics World Games have truly become an international effort with passionate support from heads of state, global leaders, luminaries, world-class athletes, celebrities and scientists.



8/9 Special Olympics Austria 2017

"Special Olympics is a testament to the indestructibility of the human spirit... you, the athletes, are the ambassadors of the greatest of humankind. You inspire us to know that all obstacles to human achievement and progress are surmountable."

**Nelson Mandela**

Former President, Republic of South Africa,  
speaking at the 2003 World Games in Dublin,  
Ireland

The proof

*Nelson Mandela*

## The Power of Special Olympics

Special Olympics is a global movement that unleashes the transformative power and joy of sports, every day around the world.

For nearly 50 years, Special Olympics has worked to empower people with intellectual disabilities to become accepted and valued members of their communities. It all starts ... with sports!

"The work of Special Olympics is very important for people with disabilities, but in reality, it has an important role in the comprehensive development of humanity around the world."

***Hu Jintao***

President of China, speaking at the 2007 World Games in Shanghai

*Hu Jintao*





# World Winter Games in Austria

In 2012, during the Special Olympics Board of Directors meeting in Panama, Special Olympics athlete Loretta Claiborne declared that the 2017 World Winter Games would be hosted by the cities of Graz and Schladming as well as in Ramsau am Dachstein and Rohrmoos. This incredible success was able to be achieved due to:

- ✓ the perfect preparation of the application material
- ✓ the united support of Austria
- ✓ the meaningful sustainability programs
- ✓ the amazing humanitarian work since 1993



## Data and Facts

- **2700** athletes from over **107 countries**
- **1100** coaches
- **3000** volunteers
- **5000** family members and friends
- **1200** Honored Guests
- **800** symposium attendees
- **1000** representatives of media
- > competitions in 9 sports over 8 days
- > Opening Ceremony Planai Stadium
- > Closing ceremony UPC arena
- > Healthy Athletes Program
- > School Programs
- > Inclusive Programs and competitions
- > Symposium and congresses
- > Culture and art program
- > Host Town program



## Graz: indoor competition and Closing Ceremony

### Convention Centre Graz:

- speedskating
- floorhockey
- floorball
- stick shooting

### Ice-rink Graz:

- figure skating

### Closing Ceremony:

March 24, 2017 / UPC arena



# Graz

Ramsau am Dachstein  
Schladming





## Alpine and Nordic competitions and Opening Ceremony

### Opening Ceremony:

March 18, 2017 | Schladming/Planai-Stadium

### Alpine competitions:

Schladming-Rohrmoos

- alpine skiing
- snowboarding

### Nordic competitions:

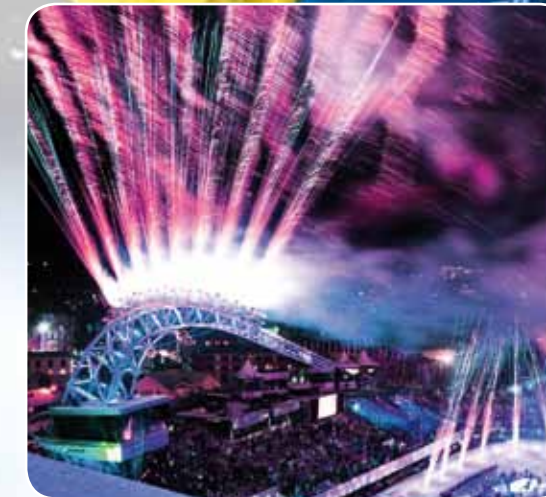
Ramsau am Dachstein

- cross country skiing
- snow shoeing



16/17 Special Olympics Austria 2017

## Graz Ramsau am Dachstein Schladming





# Goals of Special Olympics World Winter Games 2017

- ✓ advocating human rights
- ✓ increase athlete participation by introducing new sports
- ✓ establishing partnership programs (Europe for Africa)



Here's your chance

**Take the opportunity**  
to become a game-changer  
for inclusion in 2017.

Together, we can open  
hearts and minds toward  
people with intellectual  
disabilities (ID). Together,  
we can celebrate the skills  
and talents of athletes of  
ALL abilities.



## Be a Game-Changer for Inclusion!

*We invite everyone to share the heartbeat for the  
world by **playing and living unified** every day.  
These World Games will inspire people of all  
backgrounds to **come together in a global  
celebration** of human achievement.*

*Heartbeat for the world*





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**Special Olympics  
World Winter Games 2017  
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