



GLOBAL YOUTH SUMMIT

The Global Youth Summit (GYS) will be developed, implemented and funded by Special Olympics, Inc., at no cost to, but with technical and logistical support from the Games Organizing Committee (GOC) to bring together young leaders of the Special Olympics movement. By bringing together these young leaders with and without intellectual disabilities, Special Olympics will learn through their examples ways that we may better involve young people with athletes all over the world.

Participants in the GYS will leave a legacy for youth involvement at a local, sub-Program and Program level following the World Games. GYS members serve until the next World Games to support Special Olympics as members of the “Global Youth Advisory Council” (GYAC). Ways we will enlist their service may include: presenting at conferences/workshops, e-mail communications, conference calls, progress reports, writing stories for the “Get Into It Gazette” online newsletters, Web site ideas, etc. Additionally, representatives from the next World Games program in attendance at the current GYS will become liaisons to Special Olympics, especially for planning purposes and to serve as official hosts for the next World Games GYS.

GYS participants coming to the World Games have already successfully broken down barriers of negative stereotypes and attitudes toward people with intellectual disabilities in their home schools and communities. They are selected by Program and regional staff in a rigorous process under the supervision of Special Olympics headquarters staff. GYS representatives from every region total approximately 24 to 34 youths, ranging in age from 12 to 17 years. Each pair is composed of one Special Olympics athlete and one partner without an intellectual disability who, together, serve as delegates representing their school, community, state/province or nation. The pairs are not new to one another upon arrival at the World Games, but rather know one another well and long before arriving at the World Games. An adult chaperone from the pair’s Program, selected by the Program and regional staff, will serve as the supervisor for the youths (ratio of one adult: two youths).

GOALS OF THE EVENT

There are five important goals we ask of the GYS members:

- Share their ideas with Special Olympics about ways to reverse stereotypical attitudes about people with disabilities;
- Report on the athletes who are competing at the World Games and transmit these stories back to their schools and communities electronically;
- Discuss ways that Special Olympics organizers can meet the needs of today’s athletes, volunteers, coaches and family members;
- Host Web casts that will be broadcast to schools and youth around the world during the GYS; and
- Upon returning to their nations, expand on the opportunities for youth to become involved with Special Olympics in the school and community.

Global Youth Summits enable young people to talk openly about their needs and expectations and offer them the opportunity to describe ways to eradicate stereotypes and spread the message of Special Olympics to more people. The World Games structure is conducive to this purpose. There are more subtle reasons as well, such as:

- Empowering young athletes and partners to make a difference;
- Letting people know that Special Olympics is more than a once-a-year track and field meet/event;
- Emphasizing the concept that it is important to change not only a person’s attitude about those with disabilities, but, more importantly, to change their behavior towards the disabled;

GLOBAL YOUTH SUMMIT



- Underlining the point that the movement is athlete-led and focused, young people who participate in Youth Summits become members of a “Youth Leadership Advisory Council” for Special Olympics;
- Affecting future generations by recruiting young people to change the thinking of decision-makers and stakeholders for our movement;
- Participants establishing an agenda through preliminary “meetings” with one another using current and available technology such as e-mails and conference calls; and
- Creating a database of important issues surrounding youth participation, developed and expanded upon as a guide for future summits. Categories for such topics include, but are not limited to:
 - Awareness and attitude change to dispel stereotypes and myths;
 - Including athletes in school, community and sports;
 - Family involvement;
 - Encouraging the expansion of the Unified Sports® concept within the community; and
 - Increasing volunteerism among young people.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE EVENT

The inaugural Global Youth Summit, held in conjunction with the 2001 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Anchorage, Alaska, USA, brought together 32 young people from 10 nations, representing every Special Olympics region. Even though it was Special Olympics’ first effort, the Summit’s immediate success encouraged us to replicate the process in the future.

The participants took their enthusiasm with them when they left Anchorage, and we soon witnessed students leading and conducting Youth Summits of their own within their schools and communities. National Program and regional staff who were intimately involved in the first Summit also replicated the Summit concept at the local, Program and regional levels in less than a year.

Several publications generated from Global Youth Summits assist in carrying out the legacy from this event. Publications include program booklets, proceedings and stories from each summit and stories published in the online newsletter, Get Into It Gazette. All publications are readily available through Special Olympics. The Gazette can be viewed and downloaded from the Special Olympics Web site (www.specialolympics.org/getintoit).

PLANNING AND DEVELOPING A GLOBAL YOUTH SUMMIT PROGRAM

There are logical stages to completing a successful GYS. The **first stage** begins with a meeting two years prior to the next World Games. This meeting, held at the GYS, will consist of the next GYS hosts, representatives from the GOC observation team and Special Olympics staff. Preliminary planning will take place, including instilling an understanding of the role to be played by the new GYAC members and what will be expected from them leading up to and including the next GYS.

Stage two, about 14 to 18 months prior to the next World Games, will include site visits by Special Olympics staff, involving the GYAC and selected GOC members. Items to review will be on-site logistics, basic needs for GYS participants, timelines, meeting locations and housing. Following are brief descriptions of major planning components of a Global Youth Summit:

- **Airport arrivals and departures** – Arrangements will be made by Special Olympics to have participants arrive approximately one day prior to the World Games Opening Ceremonies and depart the day following Closing Ceremonies. Options for travel to and from the GYS housing will depend upon distance and time of day. The GOC is responsible for coordinating appropriate ground transportation to and from the GYS housing and airport for all participants.

- **Accommodations for the GYS group** – The GOC will assist Special Olympics by providing recommendations for housing the youths and chaperones. Duration will be from the day prior to Opening Ceremonies through the day following Closing Ceremonies. The housing should be within walking distance of Games transportation. There should be enough rooms for each athlete and partner to share a room (approximately 17 rooms with two separate beds each), as well as single rooms for the adult chaperones and Special Olympics support staff and volunteers (approximately 17 rooms with one bed each). A small storage space for supplies will be needed at the accommodation site three to four days in advance of the group's arrival. The storage space should be available for the first few days of the Games.
- **On-site transportation** – GYS participants need access to the Games shuttle service. Special Olympics may request that the GOC recommend charter bus service for a GYS special trip or activity. In this case, Special Olympics will pay the cost for the service.
- **Food service** – Meals for GYS participants should be as follows:
 - Breakfast at the GYS housing site daily.
 - Lunch at competition venues for small groups of GYS participants along with athletes. If this is not possible, then lunch should be at a public dining facility.
 - Dinner should be served to the GYS group together in the housing venue on most nights. On a few nights, dinner may be provided at a special activity in the community. Special Olympics will pay for all GYS meals. However, if the GOC could support the cost of approximately 50 daily lunches at competition venues, that would be appreciated.
- **Computers and Internet Access** – Special Olympics will need GOC support to identify and make available space for the GYS participants to compose stories on computers and access the Internet, including conducting Webinars several times during the Games. Ideally, the setting will resemble a computer lab, Internet café or media center with printers. Approximately 15 computers with CD-ROM drives and Internet access and a few printers will be needed daily from late afternoon to early evening.
- **Equipment and Supplies** – For the most part, Special Olympics will be responsible for supplies. However, support from the GOC will be needed for items such as:
 - Access to a copier;
 - Bulletin board or flip charts to post notices in the housing venue;
 - Space to display GYS banners in housing venue and meeting rooms;
 - Laptop computer and video display equipment such as a LCD projector for meetings
 - DVD player;
 - Cell phones for key staff/leaders (often these are secured by the GOC through a Games sponsor);
 - Access to public telephones, either in the housing venue or other areas (payment for calls will be the responsibility of the GYS participants); and
 - Digital cameras for each group (approximately 14 cameras minimum) for students to document the Games to augment their written stories and publications.
- **Meeting Space** – During the Games, the GYS gathers frequently as a large group to have discussions and conduct related activities. Ideally the GYS housing will have suitable space available that can be reserved by Special Olympics on several evenings during the Games. Access to a laptop computer and video display equipment such as a LCD projector and DVD player may be needed at these meetings. There will be other opportunities for the GYS to meet as a group and utilize local meeting venues, for example in historic buildings, municipal complexes and government buildings. Special Olympics may ask the GOC for recommendations about these potential meeting sites in the community.

GLOBAL YOUTH SUMMIT

- **Printing and Copying** – As mentioned above, access to a black-and-white copier will be needed during the Games. Printing of more sophisticated publications in color or with bindings may be required. Special Olympics will ask the GOC for recommendations about local printing companies and access to Games publishing systems for specific needs.
- **Sample schedule** – An example of a GYS Games schedule is below. While the specifics vary from Games to Games, the activities remain fairly consistent.

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Start Time</u>	<u>End Time</u>	<u>Venue</u>
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24			
First GYS participants arrive at Narita Airport	All day		Narita Tokyo Airport - Overnight housing at local hotel near Narita
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25			
Second GYS group arrives	By noon	17:00	Narita Airport to Garden Hotel by chartered bus
Global Youth Summit Formal Welcome Dinner and Ceremony	18:00	20:30	Mitsui Garden Hotel
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26			
GYS Reporting, Journalism & Photo-Journalism Workshop	9:00	11:30	Zenkoji Temple conference room
Tour Zenkoji Temple grounds	12:30	14:00	Zenkoji Temple Grounds
GYS Tea Ceremony	14:00	15:00	Nagano - Zenkoji Temple - Daikanshin Temple
World Games Opening Ceremonies	17:00	19:00	M-Wave (Nagano Olympic Memorial Arena)
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27			
Global Youth Forum with local Nagano students	10:00	15:30	Nagano Prefecture board room and auditorium
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28			
Global Youth Summit reporting and writing	9:00	17:00	Nagano - Sport venues and FullNet Center
TUESDAY, MARCH 1			
Global Youth Summit: Conduct Global Webcast	early a.m. TBD	1 hour	Nagano - FullNet Center
Global Youth Summit reporting and writing	9:00	17:00	Nagano - Sport venues and FullNet Center
Sports night: Youth Summit Bowling Tournament	18:00	21:00	Nagano Bowling Center

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2			
Sightseeing and other cultural sites	10:00	18:00	Matsumoto Castle, etc.
Global Youth Summit: Conduct Global Webcast	late p.m. TBD	1 hour	Nagano - FullNet Center
THURSDAY, MARCH 3			
Global Youth Summit reporting and writing	9:00	17:00	Nagano - Sport venues and FullNet Center
FRIDAY, MARCH 4			
Global Youth Summit reporting and writing	9:00	17:00	Nagano - Sport venues and FullNet Center
GYS Cultural Gift Exchange	20:00	21:00	Garden Hotel, Tenku Room 2nd Floor - TBC
Global Youth Summit: Conduct Global Webcast	late p.m. TBD	1 hour	Nagano - FullNet Center
SATURDAY, MARCH 5			
Attend "Changing Attitudes-Changing the World" keynote speech	8:30	11:30	Wakasako Hall
World Games Closing Ceremonies	14:00	16:00	M-Wave (Nagano Olympic Memorial Arena)
Global Youth Summit: Final Meeting and Summit Closing Ceremony	20:30	22:00	Garden Hotel, Tenku Room 2nd Floor
SUNDAY, MARCH 6			
Delegation Departures	8:00	all day	To Narita Airport
Some GYS are housed in local Narita Airport hotel. Activity on their own.	all evening		Narita Airport area
MONDAY, MARCH 7			
Delegation Departures (continued)	all day		Narita Airport

A timeline for the selection process of athletes, partners and chaperones will be **stage three**. Although it may seem far off (approximately eight months), this timeline will allow for a thoughtful and comprehensive approach to selecting the best candidates possible who will be of the greatest value to Programs and who have the ability to commit to the expectations before, during and following their experience at the World Games. This timeline can also allow adequate time for implementation of SO Get Into It® materials, participant interviews, securing visas and passports, securing signed release forms, etc. Generally, this process will include the following elements:

TASK	MONTHS OUT FROM GYS
Nomination, registration and release form materials are sent to selected Programs by regional staff	8 months out
Interview candidates and selection of participants	7 months out
Implement SO Get Into It (if necessary)	6-7 months out

GLOBAL YOUTH SUMMIT

Registration and release forms for athlete, partner and chaperone due to Special Olympics	6 months out
Special Olympics sends official welcome letter to all participants	6 months out
Programs secure passports and visas	5 months out
Conference calls (optional WebEx) begin with participants and Special Olympics staff	2-3 months out
GYS Handbook sent to participants	1 month out
Airline tickets sent to all participants	1-2 months out
Final materials sent to participants	2-3 weeks out

SIMPLIFIED CHART OF GLOBAL YOUTH SUMMIT DEVELOPMENT

This chart is meant to be a starting point for discussion purposes among GOC, GYAC and Special Olympics. Tasks begin two years before the GYS and continue up to the start of the GYS.

TASKS	MONTHS AWAY					
	24	14-18	8-9	3-4	2	1
1. Meet with GYAC hosts and GOC Observation Team members at current World Games						
2. Site visit by Special Olympics staff to conduct preliminary logistical arrangements with GOC and GYAC hosts						
3. Regional staff distributes GYS nomination materials to selected Programs						
4. Local volunteers are recruited to assist for the GYS						
5. Supplies are purchased locally when possible with help from the GYAC and GOC points of contact						



6. Local volunteers are trained by GOC, GYAC and Special Olympics						
7. Final arrangements are managed on-site by the GYAC and GOC points of contact						

PLANNING RESOURCES

Resources from Special Olympics that will assist the GYS planning and development process include the following, which may be requested from the Organizational Development Department:

- a. Building Bridges: A companion guide to starting and maintaining school-based Special Olympics Programs;
- b. Proceedings and Stories from the 2003 and 2005 Global Youth Summits;
- c. Changing Attitudes, Changing the World 2005 Global Youth Forum booklet;
- d. Youth Summit Planning Guide; and
- e. Special Olympics Get Into It (www.specialolympics.org/getintoit).