



Facts & Figures

Things to know

SPECIAL OLYMPICS
WORLD WINTER GAMES AUSTRIA 2017
March 14 to 25, 2017



SPECIAL OLYMPICS
WORLD WINTER GAMES
AUSTRIA 2017

Graz | Schladming | Ramsau | Styria

Heartbeat for the world



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Heartbeat for the world

Duration of the event:
Tuesday, March 14 through
Saturday, March 25, 2017

OPENING CEREMONY – Schladming:
March 18, 2017 (Planai Stadium)

CLOSING CEREMONY – Graz:
March 24, 2017 (Merkur Arena)

Facts & Figures **AUSTRIA 2017**

GENERAL INFORMATION SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Special Olympics is the biggest international sport movement for people with intellectual disabilities.

Founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, U.S. based Special Olympics (SO) can be found in more than 170 countries around the globe today. Over 4.5 million athletes seize the wide range of training and competition opportunities. Special Olympics Austria, as it exists in its present form, was founded in 1993. Back then the World Winter Games took place outside of the U.S. for the very first time. The honorary president of Special Olympics Austria is Arnold Schwarzenegger.

„Heartbeat for the world“

Following that motto, the Special Olympics World Winter Games take place from 14th to 25th of March, 2017 in Graz, Schladming and Ramsau.

Igniting the “Flame of Hope” on March 18th in the Planai Stadium in Schladming will mark the second World Winter Games taking place in Austria (after the Games in Schladming/Salzburg in 1993). Austria is, besides the U.S., the only country worldwide to hold the World Winter Games for the second time – yet another reason for Austria to feel especially honored.

AUSTRIA 2017 AMBASSADORS

A multitude of famous personalities support the World Winter Games personally – and they are becoming more every day: **MANFRED BAUMANN, JAMES COTTRIAL, BERNHARD EISEL, FELIX GOTTWALD, RENATE GÖTSCHL, PHILIPP HANSA, LEO HILLINGER, MARCEL HIRSCHER, CONNY HÜTTER, FRANZ KLAMMER, HANS KNAUSS, DANIEL MESOTITSCH, REINHOLD MESSNER, AXEL NAGLICH, PAUL PIZZERA, ALEXANDER POINTNER, HANS RINNER, AUGUST SCHMÖLZER, TRIXI SCHUBA, MARIO STECHER, FRITZ STROBL, CHRISTOPH SUMANN, MICHAEL TRITSCHER, ANNA VEITH, LEO WINDTNER...**
(by alphabetical order)

Last updated: October 2016

2,700
Athletes

1,100
Coaches

9
Disciplines



Floorball (Graz, Messe)
Floor Hockey (Graz, Messe)
Stick Shooting (Graz, Messe)
Figure Skating (Graz, Ice Arena)
Speed Skating (Graz, Ice Arena)
Alpine Skiing (Schladming-Rohrmoos, Slopes #32 and Schwaiger Lift)
Snowboarding (Schladming-Rohrmoos, Slopes #32 and Schwaiger-Lift)
Nordic Skiing (Ramsau, WM Stadium)
Snowshoeing (Ramsau, Ski Jump Stadium)

1,000
Award Ceremonies

107
Nations

3,000
Volunteers

12 days
(competitions on 8 days)

3
Locations

Graz, Schladming, Ramsau

9
Venues for Events

Graz: Messe Congress Graz, Ice Arena, Main Square
Schladming: Congress, „Wetzlarplatz“, Rohrmoos/Hochwurzen (Slopes #32 and Schwaiger Lift)
Ramsau: WM Stadium and Ski Jump Stadium

PROGRAMS:

HOST TOWN PROGRAM:

Prior to the Special Olympics World Winter Games 2017, Austrian regions, cities and towns host the participating delegations over a three-day period (March 14 – 16). Introductory activities will allow the athletes to gain interesting and unique insights into the culture, traditions and the way of living of Austria.

HEALTHY ATHLETES PROGRAM (Messe Graz):

„Special Olympics Healthy Athletes®“ is the largest international and public health program for people with intellectual disabilities. The program offers free medical check-ups as well as useful equipment such as eye glasses, sunglasses or hearing aids.

SCHOOL PROGRAM „Cool School“:

Schools all over Austria have the unique opportunity to become part of the biggest sporting event of 2017 and visit the World Winter Games live! Besides various projects carried out at schools, we introduced the greatest fan club mission of all time: **“Mission 3000”**. We are searching for a fan club for every participating athlete; a fan club that supports an athlete before and during the Games.

FAMILY PROGRAM:

Programs for the athletes’ families are an important part of the Special Olympics. Family members who travel to Austria with the athletes are provided with a variety of opportunities. Specific activities will allow them to exchange experiences and increase solidarity. For example, the family members can immerse themselves in the history of Austria by taking the “Imperial Austria” tour prior to the Games.

TORCH RUN – „The Flame of Hope“ (FINAL LEG):

The Law Enforcement Torch Run is an especially memorable experience for both torch bearers and spectators. After the Olympic flame is ignited on March 2, 2017 in Athens, Greece, it will embark on its journey to finally arrive in Austria, the host country – ten days before the World Winter Games begin.

The „Flame of Hope“ on its way through Austria

80 international law enforcement officers, 10 national law enforcement officers, 10 international Special Olympic athletes as well as many police cadets from Austria will carry the Olympic flame through Austria. Starting on March 9th in Bregenz, they will continue their ten-day journey through 50 different cities and towns, crossing all 9 Austrian states. The Olympic flame will be cheered and celebrated by the residents of each city or town.

The highlight of the Law Enforcement Torch Run will be the ignition of the Olympic flame on March 18, 2017 during the opening ceremony in the Planai Stadium in Schladming.

5,000
family members

1,200
guests of honor

800
media representatives

INFO AND CONTACT:

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World Winter Games 2017
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