

Special Olympics Athens 2011

"From a summer camp for people with intellectual disabilities to a World Movement, the Special Olympics change lives and attitudes for more than 40 years."

The Athens 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games kick off on June 25 and will last until July 4.

History

Special Olympics is a non-profit organization that was officially founded in 1968, giving form to the vision of its founder, Eunice Kennedy-Shriver (1921-2009) - a vision born in 1962 in a summer camp at Eunice's home, where children and adults with intellectual disabilities were invited in order for her to explore their abilities in various sports activities.

The 1st International Special Olympics Summer Games were held in Chicago, USA, in 1968, when 1,000 individuals with intellectual disabilities from 26 U.S. states and Canada competed in track and field and swimming.

The 1st Special Olympics Winter Games were held in 1977, in Colorado, USA while, in 2003, Ireland hosted the first Special Olympics World Summer Games outside the United States.

Special Olympics Hellas was founded in 1987 as a non-profit, sports and educational association for the integration of Greeks with intellectual disabilities in the Global Movement of Special Olympics.

In 2007, the Special Olympics International Committee selected Athens to host the Special Olympics World Summer Games for the year 2011.

By being offered the opportunity to host the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games, 7 years after having hosted the 2004 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Greece will be one of only four countries that will have or-



ganized the entire range of great athletic multiple sport events.

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ATHENS 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games kick off on June 25 and will last until July 4. Both the opening and closing ceremonies will take place on the set dates, at the Panathenaic Stadium.

7,500 athletes with intellectual disabilities from over 180 countries, 2,500 coaches, 3,000 officials and 25,000 volunteers will participate in the Games, while it is estimated that 40,000 athletes' family members will come to Greece.

It is also estimated that 3,000 media representatives, from all over the world, will be accredited to cover the Games. The athletes are expected to compete in 21 sports that will take place in 30 venues.

Special Olympics villages at the

Aghios Andreas complex, Nea Makri, and Marathonas, in the north-eastern part of Attica region will host athletes and delegations. Entrance to the competition venues of the ATHENS 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games will be free for the public.

Mascot, Emblem, Slogan

The Mascot of the Games is Apollon. The Sun is the symbol of optimism, joy and glory. Its light and warmth are considered a source of life and happiness. Greece, widely known for its long-lasting sunshine has, since ancient times, worshiped the Sun as God.

Its selection as the Mascot of the Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011, aims to convey the message of joy and optimism towards all athletes and welcome them in Greece with a big warm hug.

The Emblem of the Special Olympics World Summer Games ATHENS 2011

is a radiant sun, the source of life that underlines the excellence and power of the athlete who takes part in the Games.

Excellence is depicted in the olive branch and power in the spiral form in the center of the sun.

The colours reflect the Greek landscape and portray emotions like passion for life in the warm red, optimism in the orange, determination in the blue, freedom in the light blue and hope in the green.

The slogan I'm in delivers a dynamic message, which reflects the significance of participation. It is an inspiration, an incentive, an impulse for all of us, volunteers, athletes, guests, as well as the general public towards endorsing the values of the Special Olympics Movement.

At the same time, the slogan invites us all to embrace these -really unique? Games that constitute the biggest international humanitarian, sporting event, hosted by our country in 2011.



Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia

Holy Monastery of the Mother of God

PANTANASSA



Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia

Holy Cross Monastery

Thank You For Your Prayers And Support - Christ is Risen!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are pleased to report that the submission made by the monasteries received the unanimous support of the Councillors at Gosford City Council tonight.

Thank you to all the Councillors of Gosford, and especially Mr Chris Holstein, for proposing and adopting SP2 zoning for the monastery lands. In place of the prohibition of places of public worship, which would have left the monasteries only with existing use rights, the SP2 Zone; 'monastery with associated place of public worship and cemetery', will apply to each monastery. This means that all the monastic functions can continue as permissible uses under the Gosford LEP.

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia, the fathers and sisters of Pantanassa and Holy Cross monasteries and all the faithful sincerely express their gratitude to God and all the Councillors. We also express our appreciation to the Hon. Chris Hartcher, Minister for the Central Coast.

What does this now mean?

An important step, in the whole process, has been achieved tonight. Now the accepted proposal will be sent to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure for Ministerial approval. We ask all the faithful to join us in prayer so that the next important step in the process can be as equally successful. We will endeavour to keep you updated.

Prayerfully Yours,

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