



SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
WORLD WINTER GAMES  
AUSTRIA 2017

Graz | Schladming | Ramsau | Styria

*Heartbeat for the world*

# SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD WINTER GAMES AUSTRIA 2017 FACT SHEET

The Special Olympics World Winter Games were held in Austria in 1993 and will be returning to the country in 2017. The Games will be held throughout Austria in three primary locations: in Graz (the second largest city in Austria and capital of Styria), Schladming (Alpine Skiing World Championships in 1982 and 2013) and Ramsau (Nordic Skiing World Championships in 1999).

**Date:** Tuesday, 14th March 2017 to Saturday, 25th March 2017

## Facts and Figures

Athletes: **3,000**

Coaches: **1,100**

Nations: **110**

Duration: **12 days** (sporting competitions over 8 days)

Sports: **9**

- Floorball (Graz, Convention Centre)
- Floor Hockey (Graz, Convention Centre)
- Stick Shooting (Graz, Convention Centre)
- Figure Skating (Graz, Ice Hall)
- Speed Skating (Graz, Ice Hall)
- Alpine Skiing (Schladming-Rohrmoos, Slope 32)
- Snowboarding (Schladming-Rohrmoos, Slope 32)
- Nordic Skiing (Ramsau, WM Stadium)
- Snowshoeing (Ramsau, WM Stadium)





Locations: **3** (Graz, Schladming, Ramsau)

Number of Venues: **4**

(Graz: Convention Centre & Ice Hall, Schladming: congress, Rohrmoos: Slope 32, Ramsau: WM Stadium)

Family members: **5,000**

Volunteers: **3,000**

Media representatives: **1,000**

Honored Guests: **1,200**

**Opening Ceremony:** 18th March in Schladming (Stadium Planai)

**Closing Ceremony:** 24th March in Graz (Merkur Arena)

**Host Town Program:** For the three days preceding Opening Ceremony, communities and cities across Austria will host delegations from around the world. Athletes will get the welcome of a lifetime and along with members of their Host Town, take part in a fun schedule of cultural and sports activities.

**Healthy Athletes Program (at Graz, Convention Centre):** Volunteer healthcare professionals will provide athletes with free screenings and services in clinical areas including prescription eyewear and hearing aids. Medical volunteers return to their schools and medical practices with the experience and desire to better treat people with intellectual disabilities.

**School program "cool school":** Special Olympics is partnering with Austrian educational institutions in different ways for the World Winter Games, and increasing awareness among youth about the abilities of people with intellectual disabilities and appealing to students, teachers and parents to plan and conduct inclusive projects.

**Torch Run:** The Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics is Special Olympics' largest grass-roots fundraiser and public awareness vehicle in the world. The Final Leg Team (100 members strong) participating in the Torch Run is comprised of law enforcement runners, Special Olympics athletes, and Logistics Team members from 49 states and 24 countries around the world representing 79 Torch Run programs. Final Leg runners are chosen for their dedication and commitment to the Law Enforcement Torch Run and Special Olympics by their respective Torch Run Programs throughout the world. The Torch Run will begin on 9th March in Bregenz (Vorarlberg), then the "Flame of Hope", the most important symbol for Special Olympics, will be carried throughout multiple cities in Austria.





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