



Public Invited to Upcoming Events in Palmdale Prior to the Special Olympics World Games Los Angeles 2015 (LA2015)

Special Olympics Flame of Hope Torch Run, Kickball Game, Western Line Dancing, Cultural Q&A, and a Visit to TNOTS Are All Open to the Public

PALMDALE – The City of Palmdale, which is hosting Special Olympics Delegations of athletes and coaches from Cyprus and St. Lucia as part of the Special Olympics World Games Host Town program, is inviting residents to attend the upcoming events in conjunction with the Games.

On Friday, July 17, the Special Olympics Flame of Hope Torch Run will come through Palmdale. It will stage at Summerwind Elementary School, located at 39360 Summerwind Dr. The runners carrying the torch will begin running north on Summerwind Dr. at 2:30 pm and head to the main entrance of the Antelope Valley Mall, escorted by CHP and Sheriffs. They are expected to arrive at the Mall's new main entrance on the south side of building by 3 pm, where there will be a brief ceremony marking the occasion, featuring remarks from emcee Palmdale Mayor Jim Ledford and music by local favorites The Fulcos. Residents are encouraged to watch the runners from along the route or attend the ceremony at the Mall's entrance.

The Flame of Hope began its journey in Athens, Greece, where it was lit on May 14. It was transported to Washington, DC, where on May 25, it was used to light two other torches. The three Flame of Hope torches completed touring all 50 states on July 10 in a relay called the Unified Relay America. The Final Leg will conclude on Saturday, July 25 at the LA Memorial Coliseum as law enforcement officers will hand the Flame of Hope to seven Special Olympic athletes representing the seven regions of the world, who will light the official caldron, signifying the opening ceremonies. This will be only the third time the memorial flame has been lit at the Coliseum---the other two times were the Olympic Games in 1932 and 1984.



Once the athletes arrive in Palmdale on Tuesday, July 21, the City has prepared an itinerary of activities for the athletes and coaches during their stay that includes events for in the public to attend. These events include a kickball game at Best of the West Softball Complex on Wednesday, July 22 from 7 to 9 pm; Western line dancing at Marie Kerr Park Recreation Center from 1 to 3 pm, a cultural question/answer session at Legacy Commons at 6:30 pm, and a visit to Thursday Night on the Square on Thursday, July 23 from 7 to 8:30 pm.

During their stay, the athletes will train at Marie Kerr Recreation Center.

To help raise funds and awareness, the City is encouraging the community to 'like' the Host Town Palmdale Facebook page at www.facebook.com/HostTownPalmdale. "Host Towns are responsible for the costs of hosting their delegations, including expenses such as food, lodging and entertainment. If any individual or business would like to help with fundraising efforts, they can make a donation directly to the Host Town Palmdale program through the official Special Olympics World Games Los Angeles 2015 web portal from the Facebook page," said Palmdale's Communications Manager John Mlynar.

All donations are tax-deductible within guidelines of U.S. law.

The Host Town program has been an important element of Special Olympics World Games since 1995, and the experience has left a lasting impression on the local communities in Ireland, Japan, China, Greece, South Korea and the United States, all of which have previously organized Host Town programs as part of the Special Olympics World Games.

For more information about Palmdale's Host Town program, please visit www.la2015.org/host-town/palmdale and www.facebook.com/HostTownPalmdale.



For more information on the 2015 Special Olympics World Games, including volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, visit LA2015.org and on social with #ReachUpLA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

About the Special Olympics World Games Los Angeles 2015

With 7,000 athletes and 3,000 coaches representing 177 countries, along with 30,000 volunteers and an anticipated 500,000 spectators, the 2015 Special Olympics World Games - being staged in Los Angeles July 25 - August 2, 2015 - will be the largest sports and humanitarian event anywhere in the world in 2015, and the single biggest event in Los Angeles since the 1984 Olympic Games. The 2015 Special Olympics World Games, with the unparalleled spirit, enthusiasm, teamwork, joy and displays of courage and skill that are hallmarks of all Special Olympics events, will feature 25 Olympic-style sports in venues throughout the Los Angeles region. The Opening Ceremony, to be held July 25, 2015 in the historic Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, site of the 1932 and 1984 Olympic Games, is expected to attract 80,000 spectators. On April 30, 2014, LA2015 and ESPN announced a global programming deal that will see ESPN bring coverage of World Games to millions of fans around the world. Honorary Chairs of the Games are President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama, with Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and California Governor Jerry Brown serving as Honorary Hosts. LA2015, the Games Organizing Committee, is a recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. For more information on the 2015 Special Olympics World Games, including volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, visit www.LA2015.org and on social with #ReachUpLA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

