



## **City of Palmdale to Host Special Olympics Delegations from Prior to the Special Olympics World Games Los Angeles 2015 (LA2015)**

*Special Olympics athletes and coaches will visit Palmdale to enjoy and learn about the town's culture before competing in 2015 World Games*

**PALMDALE** – The City of Palmdale has announced they will host Special Olympics Delegations of athletes and coaches from Cyprus and St. Lucia as part of the Special Olympics World Games Host Town program.

Before the World Games begin on July 25, 2015, more than 7,000 athletes from 177 countries will be welcomed to communities throughout Southern California. The delegations will spend July 21-24, 2015 in and around Palmdale as they become acclimated to the time zone, enjoy activities that Palmdale has to offer and prepare to compete at the World Games.

“The Host Town program gives each community an opportunity to showcase to the world what makes them special, but more importantly to provide citizens with a better understanding of intellectual disabilities that will lead to acceptance and inclusion for all,” said Patrick McClenahan, President and CEO of LA2015. “Long after the World Games are over, the memories of those three days spent at Host Town will leave a lasting legacy for Special Olympics Southern California and everyone who was touched by our athletes. We are thankful to all participating Host Towns and their tireless volunteers for opening their doors - and their hearts - to our athletes and coaches.”

“We’re all looking forward to what will be a very special time for our residents as well as our visiting athletes, coaches and visitors,” said Mayor of Palmdale Jim Ledford.



“Our Special Olympics Committee is planning a fun-filled and memorable visit, and we’re inviting all our residents to be part of this special celebration.”

“Palmdale is honored to be part of the Host Town program, and looks forward to welcoming the Special Olympics athletes and coaches during their stay at the Hilton Garden Inn,” said Palmdale’s Director of Recreation and Culture Keri Smith.

A full itinerary of activities is scheduled for the athletes and coaches during their stay, including a kickball game at Best of the West Softball Complex on Wednesday, July 22; Western line dancing and cultural Q&A at Marie Kerr Park Recreation Center and a visit to Thursday Night on the Square on Thursday, July 23; and a delegate farewell on Friday, July 24. 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](http://www.facebook.com/HostTownPalmdale). “Host Towns are responsible for the costs of hosting their delegations, including expenses such as food, lodging and entertainment. If anyone who 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. Businesses who are interested in sponsorship opportunities may contact Sponsorship & Marketing Specialist Stella Devine-Knight at 661/267-5120.

“We are currently working on a list of opportunities for the community to get involved and support the athletes, and will announce details shortly,” Mlynar added.



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](http://www.la2015.org/host-town/palmdale) and [www.facebook.com/HostTownPalmdale](http://www.facebook.com/HostTownPalmdale).

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