

WHAT IS THE HOST TOWN PROGRAM?

The Host Town Program is a very special 3-day program that takes place prior to the Opening Ceremony of the Special Olympics World Games 2015. At their Host Towns, athletic delegations from around the world will be welcomed and celebrated. Their Host Town's schedule of events will include getting to know community members, taking part in cultural activities unique to your area, and--of course--practicing and resting for the games. The Special Olympics athletes will feel truly celebrated and Host Town members will make friends for life.

WHEN ARE THE HOST TOWNS?

Delegations arrive on July 21 and delegations depart on July 24, 2015.

WHAT COMMUNITIES CAN BE HOST TOWNS?

Host Towns can be the largest cities or the smallest towns in Southern California—and, in some cases, they can also be civic groups and clubs. Communities located from San Luis Obispo to San Diego are eligible. Altogether, there will be approximately 100 Host Towns.



HOW MANY ATHLETES WOULD SPEND TIME AT A HOST TOWN?

Host Towns will have the opportunity to roll out the red carpet for approximately 100 athletes--typically one or two delegations.

WHAT DOES A HOST TOWN HAVE TO DO?

The Host Town will be responsible for 100% of the costs of hosting their delegations, which includes expenses such as lodging and food. The World Games 2015 has experience advising Host Towns and can provide suggestions for securing in-kind donations and holding fundraisers.

WHY SHOULD MY COMMUNITY BECOME A HOST TOWN?

You and your neighbors will be taking part in the largest humanitarian and athletic event Los Angeles has seen since the 1984 Olympics. Over 7,000 athletes will show courage, determination and joy as they spend three days in your community and then go on to compete in 25 different events during the World Games. Your community will serve a very special role, welcoming Special Olympic athletes to SoCal and getting to know them. After these three never-to-be-forgotten days, the athletes will be changed for the better...and so will you.

For more information contact:

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IT'S EASY TO GET STARTED!

USE THE RESOURCES OF YOUR COMMUNITY TO SET UP YOUR HOST TOWN

- ✓ **ACCOMMODATIONS** – You will need to identify approximately 50 double-occupancy rooms for the athletes in or near your community.

Talk to local colleges and universities about a donation of dormitory space. Or, speak to hotel chains in your area—many will want to be part of the Special Olympics experience either by donating space or providing rooms at a discount. Make sure you have plenty of volunteers on hand to welcome the athletes, show them to their rooms and assist with baggage.

- ✓ **TRAINING FACILITIES** – You should make sure that the athletes have a way to practice their skills prior to the Games or just have an opportunity to work out.

Check with local schools to find out what facilities might be available, including a gym with training facilities, a soccer-style field and a track.

- ✓ **FOOD** – You will want to supply nutritious food and plenty of water. As with any athlete, it is important that they be given healthy breakfasts, lunches and dinners.

Make arrangements with local restaurants, civic clubs, and colleges to provide meals for athletes. Involve community members in a giant Pot Luck. Ask local markets for food donations.

- ✓ **TRANSPORTATION** – You should determine your transportation needs. The World Games 2015 will be responsible for bringing the Special Olympics athletes to and from your community. You will need to arrange transportation to bring them to local events during their visit.

Speak to local bus companies, car dealers or car rental agencies to see whether they can contribute their services or provide a discounted rate.

- ✓ **ACTIVITIES** – You should plan some great activities to introduce the athletes to your community and spread the word about the World Games. Arrange for 2 two-hour events to be held on July 22 and July 23, and a possible activity on July 21 if the delegation arrives earlier in the day.

Be sure to highlight what is unique about your community, such as a historic site. Bring in local artists, writers, and performers to create special events. Look for interesting places to hold cultural events.

- ✓ **SECURITY** – You will need to supply basic oversight of your events to make sure your three days go smoothly.

Recruit local volunteers to be on site.