



Delegations arrive in Austria tomorrow, Tuesday, 14th

Tomorrow, Tuesday, 14th all the delegations participating in the Special Olympics World Winter Games (SOWWG) 2017 arrive in Austria. The athletes and their coaches from 107 nations (including the team from Austria) will then go on to various towns all over Austria to participate in the „Host Town Program“, spend three days to get to know Austria and to become familiar with local culture.

Lists of

- Team Austria,
- different delegations as well as
- nations and athletes can be found at

<http://www.austria2017.org/en/games-2017/the-athletes>

A list of all host towns can be found at

<http://www.austria2017.org/en/sei-dabei/host-town-program>

A lot of interest in the Law Enforcement Torch Run

The Law Enforcement Torch Run, which started on Thursday, March 9th in Bregenz, created strong interest all over Austria, with many communities coming out to support and cheer on the runners.

From there the flame is carried by the Final Leg Team, who has embarked on two different routes, running the Flame of Hope throughout 50 cities, towns and communities across Austria. A team of 133 Final Leg Team members (which includes 88 law enforcement officers, 10 Special Olympics athletes, and logistics personnel) are serving as Guardians of the Flame, stopping in 50 communities, towns and cities throughout Austria. Please follow the journey of the flame at the below site so you can see it before it arrives in Graz on March 17th and then Schladming for the Opening Ceremony of the Special Olympics World Winter Games on March 18th.

Follow the journey here: <http://www.austria2017.org/en/sei-dabei/torch-run>

On Social Media:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/letr.org/?ref=bookmarks>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LETRforSO>

Photos of the Final Leg can be found on

<http://letrphotos.smugmug.com/2017-Austria/n-z8JrXq>



Your accreditation for the Games

During the accreditation application process, you decided WHERE you would pick up your accreditation: in Graz or in Schladming.

You can pick up your accreditation **as of March 14th (starting at 9 a.m., respectively):**

- in Graz at the media center in the Stadthalle Graz, first floor
- in Schladming at the media center in the congress Schladming, first floor

Addresses:

Stadthalle Graz, Messeplatz 1, 8010 Graz

congress Schladming, Europaplatz 800, 8970 Schladming

Please note that it's no longer possible to change your pick up location.

The media centers in Graz and Schladming are opened daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m

Bibs for Photographers: colours changed!

Due to the high number of photographers the system of bib-colours was changed to:

red: photographers

yellow: videographers

green: ESPN, ORF, SOI

The bibs can be picked up together with the accreditations in the media centers in Graz and Schladming.

Official App „Austria 2017“ of the SOWWG 2017

You can now download the official app of the World Winter Games free of charge. You can find it in various app stores, it is called "Austria 2017". The app provides all essential information about the Games, including timetables and results.

The fan-app „Special FotoApp“ can be loaded free of charge from various app stores, too. This fan FotoApp encourages fans to take photos at each venue, being a reporter for the Games and sharing photos with everyone interested in the Games. Click link here to learn more:
<https://specialolympics.snapshotboard.com/>



Opening Ceremony Press Conference, Saturday, March 18th, congress Schladming

On March 18th, Special Olympics International will hold a press conference in the congress Schladming.

It will start on 3:00 p.m. in the Media Center. Your questions will be answered by:

- Mary Davis (CEO Special Olympics International)
- Dr. Timothy Shriver (Chairman Special Olympics International)
- Jürgen Winter (President Special Olympics Austria)
- John Skipper, President, ESPN
- Johanna Pramstaller, International Global Messenger, Special Olympics Austria
- Jason Mraz, Opening Ceremony performer
- Grace VanderWaal, Opening Ceremony performer

Pre-Opening-Reception on Saturday, March 18th

Before the Opening Ceremony kicks off on Saturday, March 18th, all journalists have the opportunity at 4:30 p.m. to take photos of honoured guests on the red carpet outside the entrance to the Pre-Opening-Reception in the congress Schladming.

****Please note this is an informal photo and media interview opportunity; some honoured guests will be interested in participating in interviews; some will not. Please respect their time and privacy if denied an interview request.**

The Pre-Opening Reception is a closed event to the media. Media will not be admitted entry – media will only have access to the red carpet.

All honoured guests have not been confirmed for the event. More details to follow.

Parking situation and ride to Schladming on March 18th





Media Communiqué 4

March, 13th

Information regarding the program/scheduled for Opening Ceremony will be given in one of our next Media Communiqués. You can also find information on our website www.austria2017.org soon.

If you go to Schladming by car for the Opening Ceremony, please note that there are **absolutely NO parking facilities next to the congress or next to the Planai Stadium**. We recommend that you arrive early and take the parking lot P7 (Planai West: Maistatt 672, 8970 Schladming).

On March, 18th we will provide our own **MEDIA BUS which will leave from Graz to Schladming free of charge**. This bus will leave Graz at 1:00 p.m. (at Froehlichgasse, bus station next to Halle A, via parking lot) and will return back to Graz from Schladming after the Ceremony ends at 11:00 p.m. Space is filling up quite fast. You must make a reservation in advance to confirm your seat, so if you are interested to take this bus please send us a mail to media@austria2017.org by Wednesday, March, 15th (12 noon). Please note: First in time, first in line.

Other possibilities for travel to Schladming from Graz include the train or the bus: Taking the train (www.oebb.at) or Flixbus (www.flixbus.at). However, both of these options have transport that leaves earlier than the end of Opening Ceremony. The last train will leave Schladming in Graz direction at 7:52 p.m. and the last Flixbus will depart at 9 p.m.

An alternative would be hiring a car from Europcar, one of the partners of SOWWG 2017. Cars can be booked at the Europcar stall in Messe Graz at a reduced price. However, we want to make sure you understand that the parking situation is difficult in Schladming, as mentioned above.



Important addresses

- Homepage: www.austria2017.org (Special Olympics World Winter Games 2017)
www.specialolympics.at (Special Olympics Austria)
www.specialolympics.org (Special Olympics International)
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/austria2017
www.facebook.com/specialolympics (Special Olympics International)
www.facebook.com/soeuropeeurasia (Special Olympics Europe)
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/sowwg2017 & www.twitter.com/2017austria
www.twitter.com/specialolympics (Special Olympics International)
www.twitter.com/SpecOlympicsEU (Special Olympics Europe)
- Instagram: www.instagram.com/austria2017
www.instagram.com/specialolympics (Special Olympics International)
www.instagram.com/special_olympics_eu (Special Olympics Europe)
- Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/sowwg2017/ & www.flickr.com/photos/hosttownprogramm
www.flickr.com/photos/soi-photo-stream/albums (Special Olympics International)
- YouTube: www.youtube.com/c/SpecialOlympicsWorldWinterGames2017
www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIHbm7j-AXsVBNxBfN81bFtm20ldf_67 (SOI)



Calendar

March, 14 th	Delegation arrivals in Austria and Host Town Program begins <i>Ankunft der Delegationen in Österreich und Beginn des Host Town Programms</i>
March, 16 th	Delegation arrivals in Graz, Schladming and Ramsau am Dachstein <i>Ankunft der Delegationen in Graz, Schladming und Ramsau am Dachstein</i>
March, 17 th	First day of sports competitions (Divisionings) <i>Erste sportliche Bewerbe (Divisionings = Einteilungen in Leistungsstufen)</i>
March, 18 th	Opening Ceremony in Schladming (7:00 p.m.) <i>Eröffnungsfeier in Schladming (19:00 Uhr)</i>
March, 18 th – 24 th	Sports competitions, Award Ceremonies and Side Events <i>Sportwettkämpfe, Siegerehrungen und Rahmenprogramm</i>
March, 24 th	Closing Ceremony in Graz (7:00 p.m.) <i>Schlussfeier in Graz (19:00 Uhr)</i>
March, 25 th	Delegation departures <i>Abreise der Delegationen</i>