



Flame of Hope is inflamed

On March, 2nd the "Flame of Hope" was lit at the Zappeion Palace in Athens in the presence of Greek government members, delegations from Special Olympics International, Europe/Eurasia and Austria, as well as athletes and members of the Organizing Committee of the 2017 Games. On March, 8th a Greek policeman will bring the Flame of Hope to Zurich by airplane, after that the Austrian Torch Run will start on March, 9th in Bregenz. The "Flame of Hope" can be seen in the various Austrian provinces on the following days – two different teams will carry the flame to the people.

Infos: <http://www.austria2017.org/en/sei-dabei/torch-run>

Photos from Torch Lighting you can find here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/sowwg2017/albums/72157679067564401>

107 nations take part in the Games

The Special Olympics World Winter Games 2017 will be the biggest World Winter Games in the history of Special Olympics: About 2.700 athletes from 107 nations are going to compete in Austria. In addition two demonstration events will be held: Dancing and MATP (Motor Activity Training Program).

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

Overview of the sports program: <http://www.austria2017.org/en/games-2017/the-program/sports-program-372>

Official app „Austria 2017“

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





ESPN and ORF are broadcasters of the Games

ESPN as international broadcaster and ORF as national broadcaster will report extensively on the Games. Both show the Opening Ceremony on March, 18th in Schladming live, the ORF also shows four Floor Hockey and four Floorball games live at Grazer Stadthalle.

ORF Coverage: <http://www.austria2017.org/files/content/INHALTE/News-Medien/Downloads/Zeitplaene%202017/ORF%20Sendezeiten.pdf>

ESPN Coverage: <http://www.austria2017.org/files/content/INHALTE/News-Medien/Downloads/Zeitplaene%202017/ESPN%20Coverage.pdf>

Important infos for Opening Ceremony

On March, 18th the World Winter Games 2017 will officially be opened in Schladming. The show will start on 7:00 p.m., the gates will open on 6:00 p.m. Media representatives will have free access to the Ceremony with their accreditation, they don't need to buy a ticket. But please note following points:

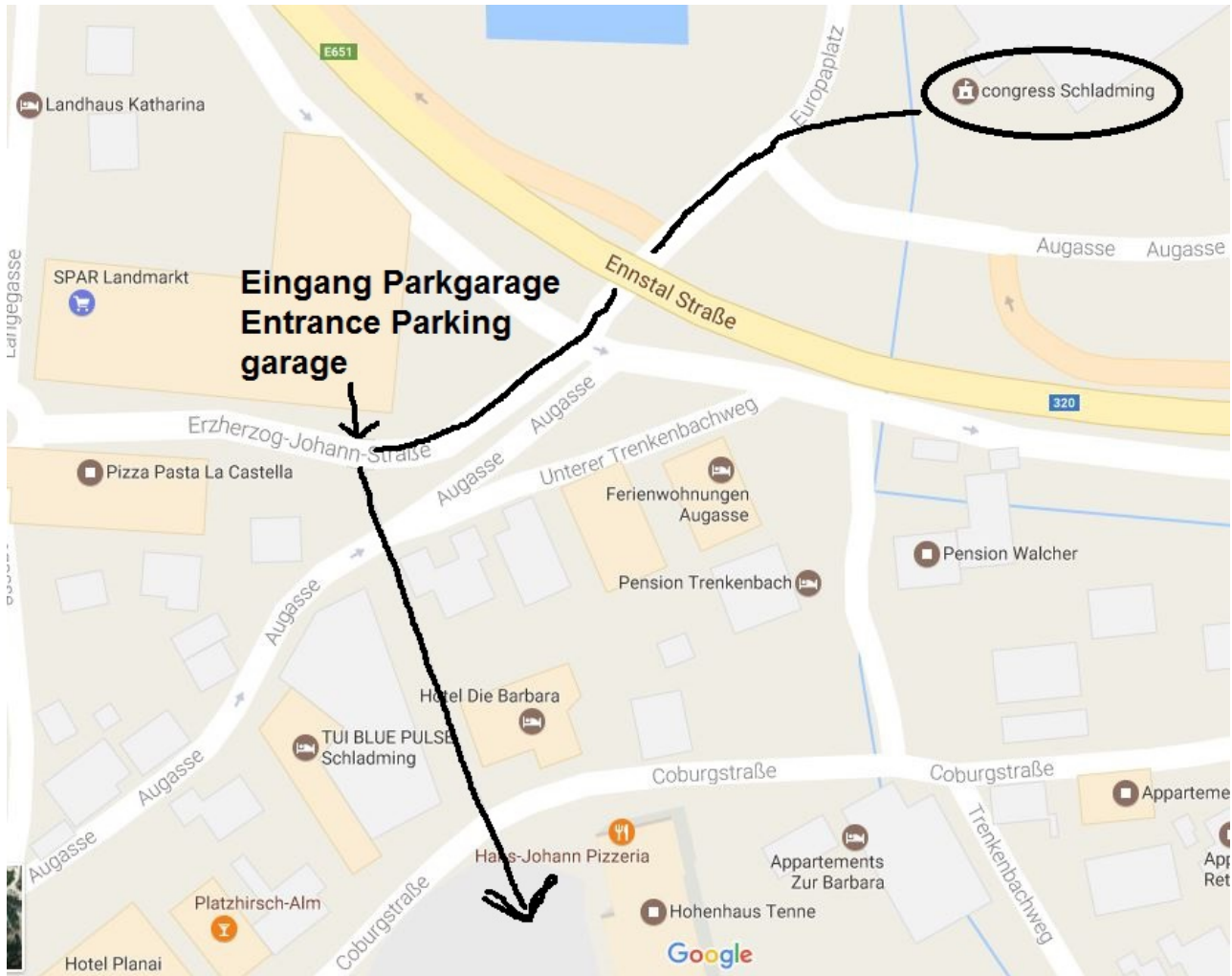
- **Only PHOTOGRAPHERS get access to the media stand in the stadium (limited space)! Photographers get their special ticket for the media stand at the Media Center Schladming!** They have to use the entrance at the parking garage in the „Erzherzog-Johann-Straße“ (via SPAR super market), afterwards they will enter the stadium underground (see Graphic 1).
- We ask all photographers to be in the stand until 6:45 p.m.
- All other media representatives will be asked to use the „snow stand“ upside of the „Hohenhaus-Tenne“. Therefor you have to take the entrance at „Trenkenbachweg“ (Graphic 2). We ask for your understanding for restricted view in the stand.
- **Filming is NOT ALLOWED during the Opening Ceremony** because all rights are reserved for ESPN and ORF. TV stations will get footage of the Ceremony afterwards, they can download the footage from a server.
- Backpacks are ONLY ALLOWED FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS in the media stand!



Media Communique 2

March, 6th

Entrance to stadium for Photographers (Graphic 1):

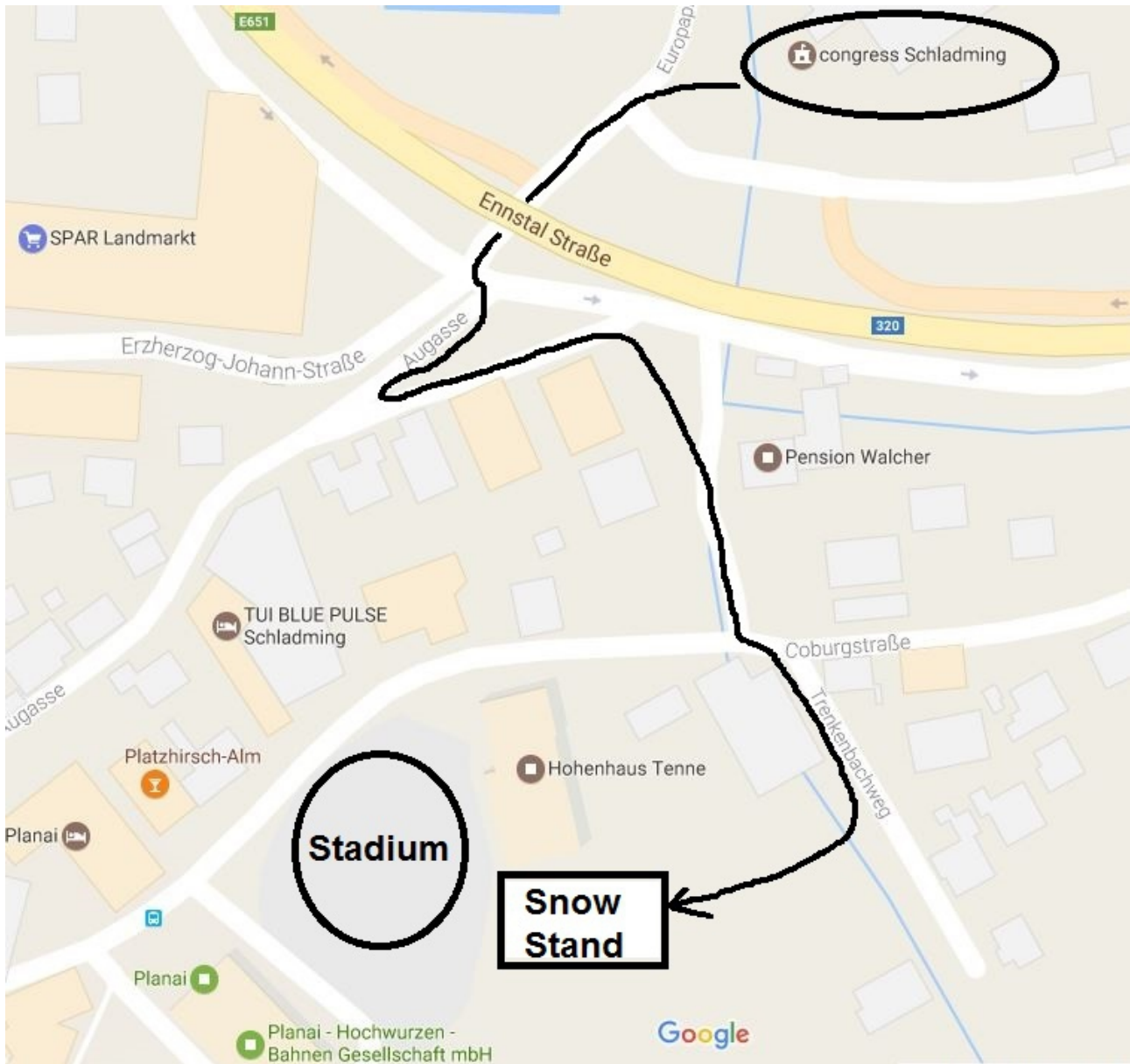




Media Communique 2

March, 6th

Entrance for all other media representatives (Graphic 2):





Media Communiqué 2

March, 6th

Information about the Ceremony will be given in one of our next Media Communiqués. You can also find them on our website www.austria2017.org soon. What we want to tell you are, above all, organizational notes:

- If you want to go to Schladming by car on March, 18th: Please note that there are **absolutely NO parking facilities next to congress or next to the stadium**. We recommend to arrive early and take the parking lot P7 (Planai West: Maistatt 672, 8970 Schladming).
- We recommend to travel by train (www.oebb.at) or Flixbus (www.flixbus.at).
- On March, 18th an own **MEDIA BUS will go from Graz to Schladming**. This bus will leave Graz at 1:00 p.m. (at Froehlichgasse, bus station next to Halle A, via parking lot) and will leave Schladming after the Ceremony at 11:00 p.m. You have to make a reservation for the seat in advance, so if you are interested to take this bus please send us a mail to media@austria2017.org until March, 17th (12 noon). Please note: First in time, first in line.
- At 4:30 p.m. the „**Pre-Opening Reception**“ in the congress Schladming will begin. Honored Guests and some of the performers of the Opening Ceremony will come together in the congress. Media representatives are allowed to make interviews and take photos next to the „red carpet“ (not in the hall). We ask for your understanding that the Organizing Committee does not give any guarantee for interviews with Honored Guests and performers. We also do not accept any requests for interviews.

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 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.



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-AXsVBNxBfN81bFtm20Idf_67 (SOI)



Calendar

- March, 2nd „Flame of Hope“ - Torch Lighting in Athens
Entzündung der „Flamme der Hoffnung“ in Athen
- March, 9th Law Enforcement Torch Run in Austria starts in Bregenz (www.lettr-finalleg.org)
Start des Fackellaufs in Österreich (Bregenz)
- March, 14th Delegation arrivals in Austria and Host Town Program begins
Ankunft der Delegationen in Österreich und Beginn des Host Town Programms
- March, 16th Delegation arrivals in Graz, Schladming and Ramsau am Dachstein
Ankunft der Delegationen in Graz, Schladming und Ramsau am Dachstein
- March, 17th First day of sports competitions (Divisionings)
Erste sportliche Bewerbe (Divisionings = Einteilungen in Leistungsstufen)
- March, 18th Opening Ceremony in Schladming (7:00 p.m.)
Eröffnungsfeier in Schladming (19:00 Uhr)
- March, 18th – 24th Sports competitions, Award Ceremonies and Side Events
Sportwettkämpfe, Siegerehrungen und Rahmenprogramm
- March, 24th Closing Ceremony in Graz (7:00 p.m.)
Schlussfeier in Graz (19:00 Uhr)
- March, 25th Delegation departures
Abreise der Delegationen