

SAVE



THE

DATE



Special Olympics
50th Anniversary Celebrations
CHICAGO

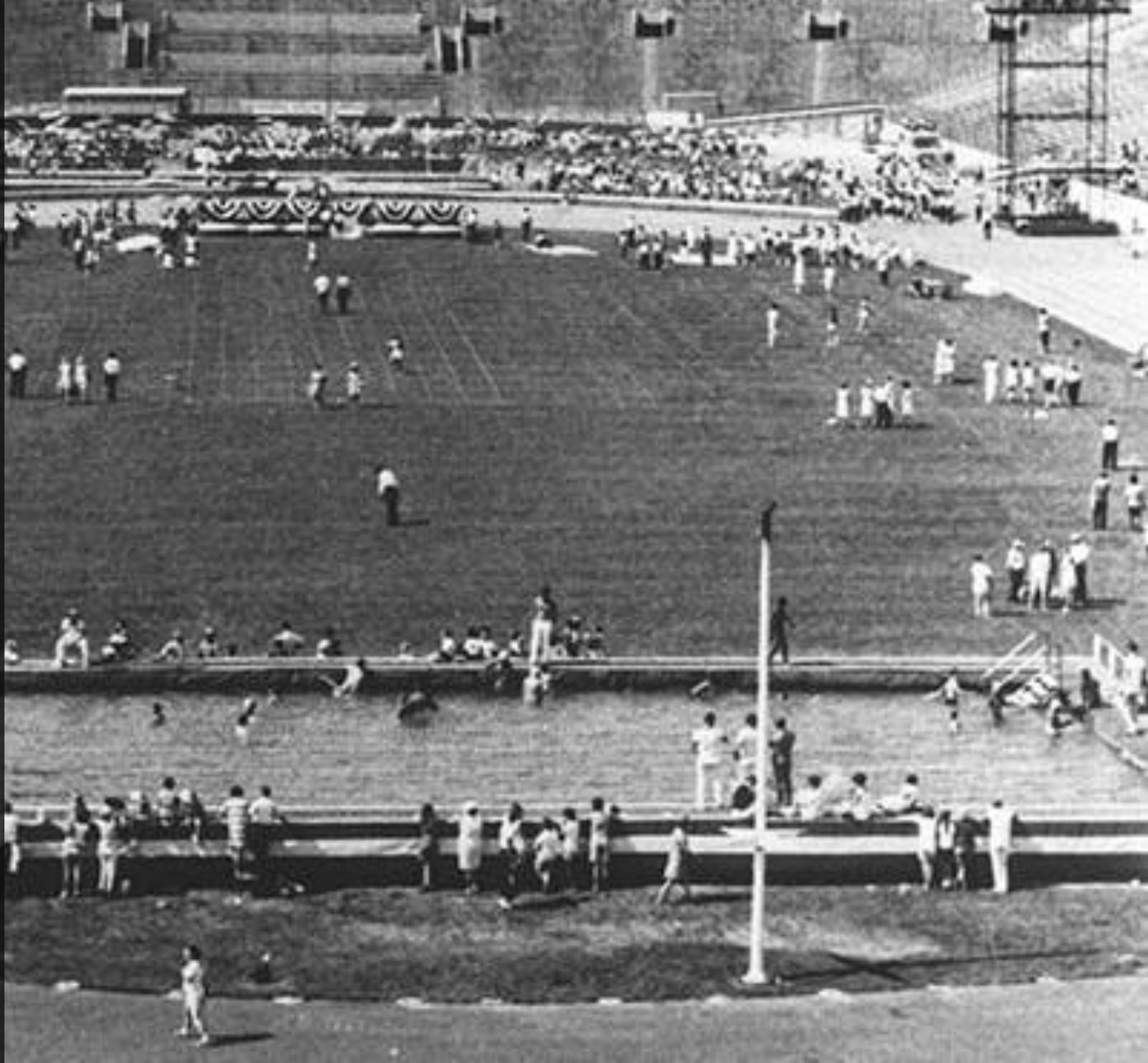
JULY 2018

*Special
Olympics*



History was made and a future will be shaped in Chicago...

With more than 5 million athletes in over 170 countries, Special Olympics has come a long way since the first Games at Soldier Field, Chicago in 1968. Back then, there were two countries represented at that first event; now we want to show the world how truly global our movement is by having as many Programs as possible represented in Chicago at our 50th anniversary celebrations. In July 2018, a series of exciting, historic events will position Special Olympics for a future of inclusion, and we want you to be a part of it!





July 17- 18 | Special Olympics Unified Cup presented by Toyota – Opening Game and First Round Matches (8am-6pm)

Special Olympics' first ever global Unified football tournament, presented by Toyota, will be our 'World Cup'! This inaugural contest will feature 24 men's and women's Unified teams from around the world. Not only is this the first ever tournament of its kind, it will also be on TV! With thanks to our partner ESPN, worldwide leader in sports broadcasting, the Cup will be shown daily on the world stage, culminating in live coverage of the finals on prime-time to an audience of millions for the first time ever. What a moment for our athletes!

July 19 | Unified Cup Group Stages (8am-6pm) | Special Olympics International Board Meeting (8:30am - 3pm)

While the group stages of the Unified Cup continue to build the excitement, a meeting of the Special Olympics International Board will take place in downtown Chicago. We expect a large turnout from our Board, who are fully involved with all 50th Anniversary activities and will be attending events in Chicago along with current and former Special Olympics athletes, celebrities, ambassadors and political leaders.



**July 20 | Unified Cup Semi-finals
& Finals (8am-8pm)
| Law Enforcement Torch Run (11am)
| Eternal Flame of Hope Lighting
Ceremony (10:30am-1pm)**

Friday morning kicks off with the Law Enforcement Torch Run featuring hundreds of officers and Special Olympics athletes from throughout Illinois and the world. The Torch Run will be a lead-in to the lighting of the Eternal Flame of Hope - a monument specifically designed for Special Olympics' by renowned sculptor Richard Hunt to symbolize a world of inclusion for all. Program Leaders are invited to join athletes, VIPs, SOI Board Members and celebrities for a special ceremony to unveil and light the Eternal Flame of Hope, which will be prominently situated next to Soldier Field in Chicago.

Following the Eternal Flame of Hope lighting ceremony, Program Leaders are invited to Toyota Park, home of the Chicago Fire Major League Soccer team, to witness the much anticipated semi-finals (afternoon) and finals (evening) of the inaugural Unified Cup, presented by Toyota. Access to all matches is free.

July 21 | Global Day of Inclusion (1pm-7pm) | Celebratory Concert (7pm-11pm)

50th anniversary celebrations in Chicago will conclude with our Global Day of Inclusion. Fifty years since it hosted the very first Special Olympics in 1968, Soldier Field will host a festival that will serve as the spark for people around the world to commit to making their communities more inclusive. The Soldier Field campus will come alive with exciting activities, sport demonstrations, historical exhibits, food kiosks, interactive games, celebrity appearances, and live entertainment, culminating in a star-studded Celebration Concert at nearby Northerly Island. Global Day of Inclusion is free, and tickets for the Concert range from \$45 to \$150.



WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT...

Five days of unforgettable events and activities! All Program Leaders who travel to Chicago for the 50th Anniversary Celebrations will be provided with a welcome pack and guide, shuttle transportation to and from all organized events, special hotel rates, preferred seating at events and access to lounge areas at each location. Information about registration and hotels will be sent to you in January, when we go live with our 50th anniversary website*

While we know how full and demanding your schedule is, we hope that you will consider joining us for all or part of the festivities. We do anticipate large numbers of guests coming to Chicago and we strongly encourage you to register as soon as you receive the registration information. In the meantime, to assist with our planning, please email us at chicago50@specialolympics.org to let us know how many people from your Program will be coming to Chicago in July 2018. We look forward to sharing this unforgettable experience with you!

*Note that travel costs to/from Chicago, airport transfers in Chicago and accommodation costs are Program expenses and not covered by SOI



OUR SUPPORTERS

- Toyota Motor Company
- ESPN
- Coca-Cola
- CME Group
- Chicago Federation of Labor
- United Airlines
- Arne and Ruth Sorenson
- Ray and Stephanie Lane
- Yang Lan
- Denis O'Brien
- Hasbro
- Lions Clubs International
- Citgo
- The Lynch Foundation
- Hyatt Foundation
- Jenny and P.Jay Fortner Family Fund
- J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation

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As the home of the first ever Special Olympics Games, there is no city more fitting than Chicago to serve as the global stage for celebrating our 50th Anniversary year.

We hope you can join us!