

Residents of Palo Alto: 2009 Senior Games FAQ

What and when are the Summer National Senior Games?

The 2009 Summer National Senior Games will be held August 1 – August 15 at venues at Stanford University and other selected sites in the San Francisco Bay Area. The biennial event, for athletes age 50 and older, will deliver medal competition in 18 sports, plus tournaments and contests in 7 demonstration sports. At the center of the Games, Stanford will showcase 16 sports including track and field, swimming, tennis, soccer, basketball, table tennis, water polo and volleyball.

How many athletes and visitors will be coming to the Palo Alto area?

Approximately 10,000 athletes and 25,000 visitors will come to the Bay Area over the two-week period. Organizers estimate that there will be approximately \$35 million in local economic benefits.

What can I expect to see as a resident?

Because many of the competitors will be staying in and around the Palo Alto area, you may see an increased spirit and excitement on the streets, especially in our shopping and dining districts. Although not all of the athletes will be here at the same time, (their sports begin and end at different times during the two weeks), much of the increased activity will

take place during the weekend of August 8 – 9 when the Celebration of Athletes ceremony takes place on the Stanford campus.

How will the Games impact me?

There should be very little direct impact on you as a resident. Events are scheduled over two weeks and throughout each day, so traffic patterns will be spread out and thus minimized. On August 1, at approximately 7 p.m., the official torch will be carried by runners from the downtown train station, through the Stanford campus and finishing at King Plaza at City Hall. A few streets surrounding City Hall will be closed for the evening event, which is open to the public. On August 3rd and 9th athletes and their guests are invited to dine at Palo Alto restaurants, so you may see more activity than usual on a normally slow Monday night.

Are there things I can do and see with my family?

Absolutely! All sporting events are open to the public and free of charge. See the Game's web page (www.2009seniorgames.org) for more information. One of the free events that will be of interest to your entire family is the lighting of the caldron ceremony, August 1, 7 – 9:30 p.m. at City Hall's King Plaza. The event will feature live music, dignitaries and the lighting of the spectacular, first ever, sustainable cauldron. In addition, during the two weeks of the Games, the City's Community Services Department is staging a series of events that will free to the public. (See the

website <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/recreation/default.asp> for more information.)

I'd love to help out, are there openings for volunteers?

Yes! The life-blood of the Games is volunteerism. Volunteer staff is needed in nearly every aspect of the games from starters, to timekeepers, to back stage activities. Please see the Senior Games website www.2009seniorgames.org for more information and to sign up. Signing up on-line is quick and easy!

How do I contact someone if I have a question or issue that needs resolving?

If your question involves any of the City's departments (police, fire, recreation, etc.) the City's Senior Games email contact is Richard.James@cityofpaloalto.org. If your question is Games related, continue to check these web pages and see the contact information on the Senior Games web site.