

The Winter

Youth Olympic Games

Held for the first time in 2010 in Singapore, the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) are much more than a junior version of the Olympic Games.

Even though the competitions are still very much at the heart of the YOG, every effort is made to ensure that this celebration of sport is an unforgettable experience for the young athletes, aged between 15 and 18.

A comprehensive culture and education programme is offered to the young athletes to help them learn about the specific features of the host country, test new sports, attend workshops to acquire useful skills for their future careers, and so on. Many other activities are also organised for them.

And it's not just in the Olympic Village that they get to meet athletes from different cultures! To increase the sense of camaraderie between different nations, the YOG brought in mixed team competitions. This new format has not only helped to forge strong relationships between athletes and break down cultural barriers; it has also completely changed the competition dynamics and strategies!

Introducing gender parity has been one of the key challenges at the Youth Olympic Games. This objective was successfully achieved at the YOG 2018 in Buenos Aires!

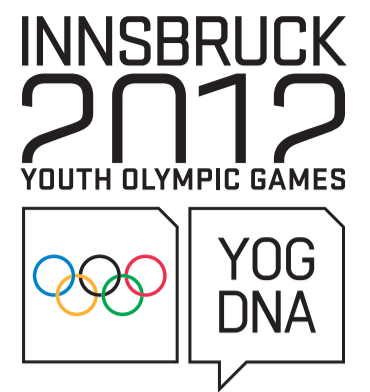
But these are not, by any means, the only innovations; the Youth Olympic Games also serve as a “laboratory” for the senior Games. At each edition, new sports or events – fun competitions designed to appeal to young people – are introduced onto the programme, such as combining skiing and snowboarding in a mixed event.

«Participating in the Youth Olympic Games is not only for involvement in sports competitions and achieving good results, but also enables you to meet with people from different cultures and backgrounds, learn important skills for your sports career and experience the Olympic values.»

IOC President Thomas Bach, Nanjing 2014



INNSBRUCK 2012



DATE	COUNTRY	ATHLETES	PARTICIPATING NATIONS	EVENTS
13 to 22 January	Austria	1,022	69	63

Slogan

Be part of it! The first Winter Youth Olympic Games were designed to be an inclusive, festive event in which everyone was welcome and encouraged to take part in the celebrations.

Torch Relay and Opening Ceremony

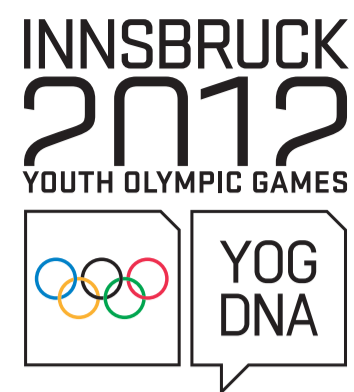
Over 18 days, more than 2,000 torchbearers took part in the Relay, carrying the torch 3,573km across 63 Austrian towns and cities. The final torchbearer made his way across a lunar landscape to light the cauldron.

While the design of the torch itself is the same at each edition of the YOG, the graphic design makes use of the Look of the Games.



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New events



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The addition of an individual skills challenge to the ice hockey programme captured the imagination of young audiences. The event consisted of six skills tests, including shooting accuracy and fastest lap.



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The mass starts in the speed skating added an extra element of difficulty: the risk of falling right from the start!



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The parallel slalom became a team competition: the team for each National Olympic Committee (NOC) was made up of two female and two male athletes.



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Female athletes competed in ski jumping for the first time in an Olympic event. Women's ski jumping would make its debut at the Olympic Winter Games in 2014 in Sochi.

To increase the sense of camaraderie between different NOCs, several events involved teams made up of athletes from different nations – one of the unique features of the YOG.



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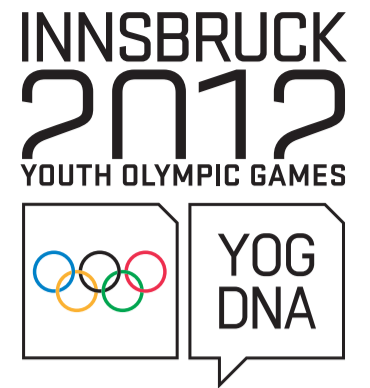
A male athlete from Switzerland and a female athlete from New Zealand competing in a curling doubles event.



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The short track speed skating relay teams were made up of two female and two male skaters, chosen from the participating nations by the drawing of lots.

Culture and Education Programme



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Several programmes were organised to promote the Olympic values to the athletes. One of the flagship programmes was the Hope Factory, which involved a number of workshops for athletes to learn about and discuss topics such as diversity, the values of sport and Olympism, respect for others and the pursuit of excellence.



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The Athlete Role Models (ARMs) are all experienced elite athletes, and many are Olympians. Their mission: to guide and inspire the athletes during the Games by taking part in various workshops and participating in Chats with Champions sessions organised in the Youth Olympic Village.



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Stéphane LAMBIEL (CHE), silver medallist in the figure skating singles at the Olympic Winter Games Turin 2006 and an ARM, at a Chats with Champions session.

Mascot



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Yoggi, an Alpine chamois, lives in the steep, rocky mountains overlooking the YOG venues: Innsbruck, Seefeld and Kühtai.

His name, Yoggi (pronounced like in YOG), is based on the nickname «Joggi», for Jakob, which is a traditional and very common Tyrolean name, adjusted with a «Y» at the beginning to contain the abbreviation «YOG».



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The chamois represented life and the natural environment in the host region. The multi-coloured, pixelated design of his outfit combined a traditional style with more modern elements. Yoggi's dynamic appearance reflected the sporting dimension of the Games. The youthful-looking mascot helped generate enthusiasm among young people across the world for these first Winter Youth Olympic Games and for the Olympic values of friendship, respect and excellence.

LILLEHAMMER 2016



DATE	COUNTRY	ATHLETES	PARTICIPATING NATIONS	EVENTS
12 to 21 February	Norway	1,100	71	70

Slogan

Go beyond. Create Tomorrow ! The stage was well and truly set for Lillehammer to recreate the magic of the 1994 Winter Games with a new generation of winter sports champions.

One of the key themes of this second edition of the Winter YOG was “old but gold”, with a focus on both tradition and quality innovation.

Torch Relay and Opening Ceremony

Just as her father had done in 1994, 12-year-old Princess Ingrid Alexandra of Norway lit the cauldron at the Opening Ceremony, representing both enduring tradition and the youth of the world.



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There was another nod to the 1994 Winter Games in the shape of a giant pictogram of a torchbearer in the forest.

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New events



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Two freestyle events in the team ski-snowboard cross relay, featuring mixed teams of four (two male and two female athletes).



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Monobob replaced the two-person bob event, meaning there was now just one athlete to guide the sled – which weighed 165 kilos and could reach speeds of up to 130km/h – down the track.



2016 / International Olympic Committee (IOC) / RUTAR, Ubald

The Nordic mixed team NH/3x3.3km event brought together three Nordic disciplines (cross-country, ski jumping and Nordic combined). Each team featured three male and two female athletes. The competition started with the ski jump and continued with a 3x3.3km cross-country relay. A packed event!



Did you know?



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Switzerland's Aline DANIOTH won four medals: gold in the combined (downhill and slalom in the same day) and the slalom, and bronze in the super-G and the giant slalom.

The USA's Chloe KIM, aged 15, took gold in the snowboard slopestyle and halfpipe. Two years later, she competed at the Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang and won the gold medal in the snowboard halfpipe with a points total of 98.25 out of 100! She became the youngest female Olympic snowboard champion of all time. Thanks to her sporting feats and the fact that her parents are South Korean, she became the star of these Korean Games.

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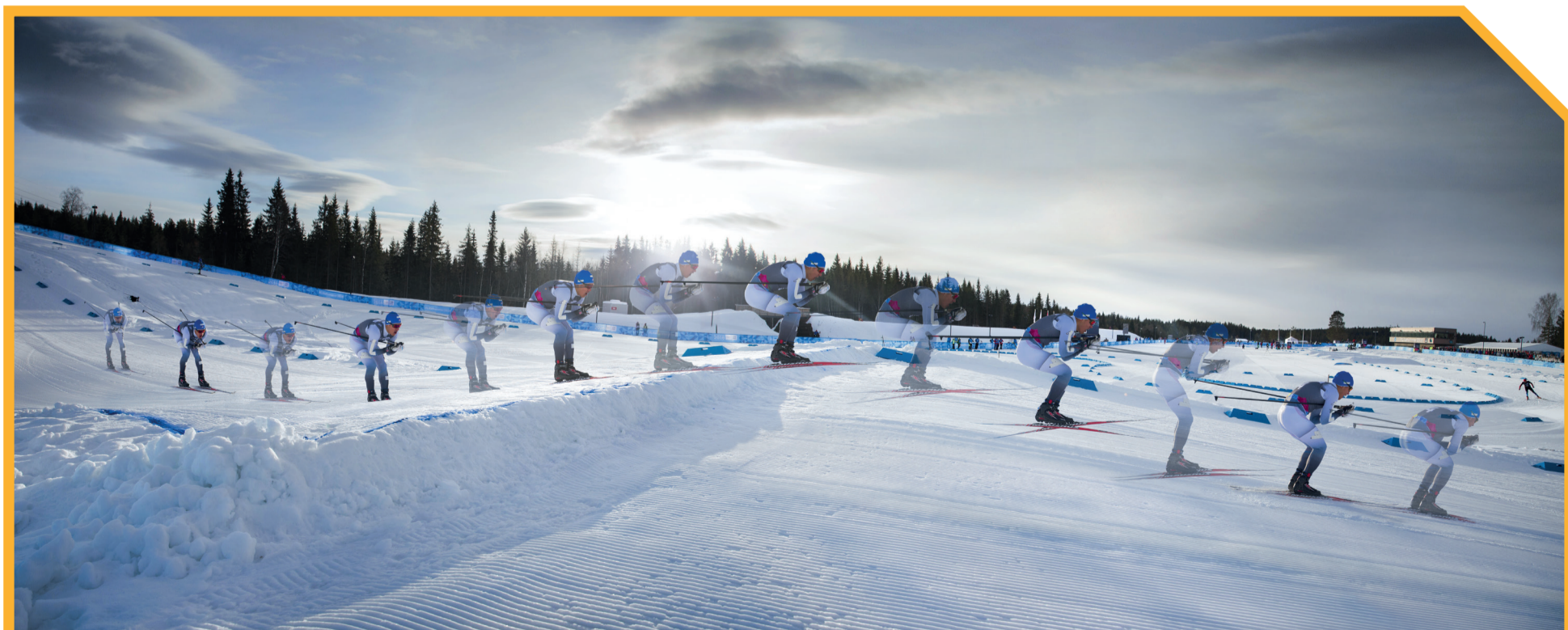


Lillehammer
2016
Youth Olympic Games



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South Korea's Magnus KIM lit up the cross-country skiing competitions, earning a podium finish in each of his three events and winning two of them.



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Culture and Education

The champions of the future did not just meet at the competition venues, however. They also had the opportunity to take part in a range of workshops addressing key topics related to their lives as athletes, receive training in the very latest multimedia technology, and let their hair down at the “Sjogfest” – a series of festivals, concerts and cultural events.

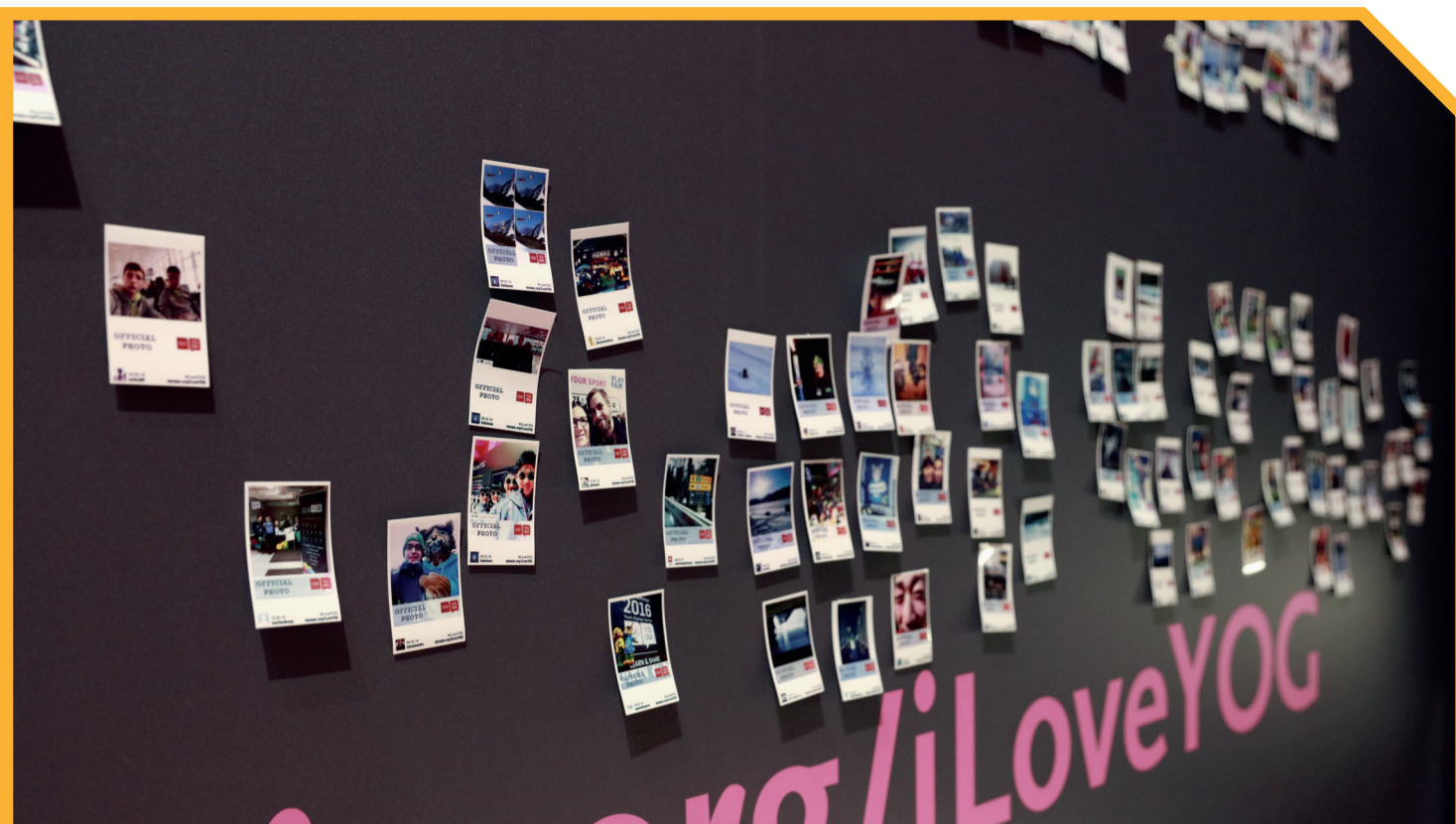


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An athlete testing his motor skills at the Body and Mind space.



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The hashtag #iLoveYOG went global! A social media wall was set up on site, displaying photos in which athletes shared their emotions just as they would in an Instagram post.



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Mascot

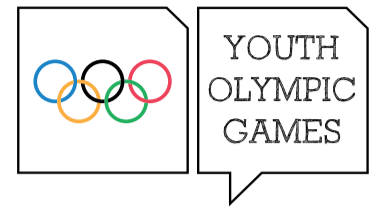
Sjogg means “snow” in the district of Gudbrandsdal, in which Lillehammer is located.

Sjogg is a sport-loving lynx, decked out in the colours of this edition of the YOG.

LAUSANNE 2020

LAUSANNE
2020

DATE	COUNTRY	ATHLETES	PARTICIPATING NATIONS	EVENTS
9 to 22 January	Switzerland	1,880	+ 70	81

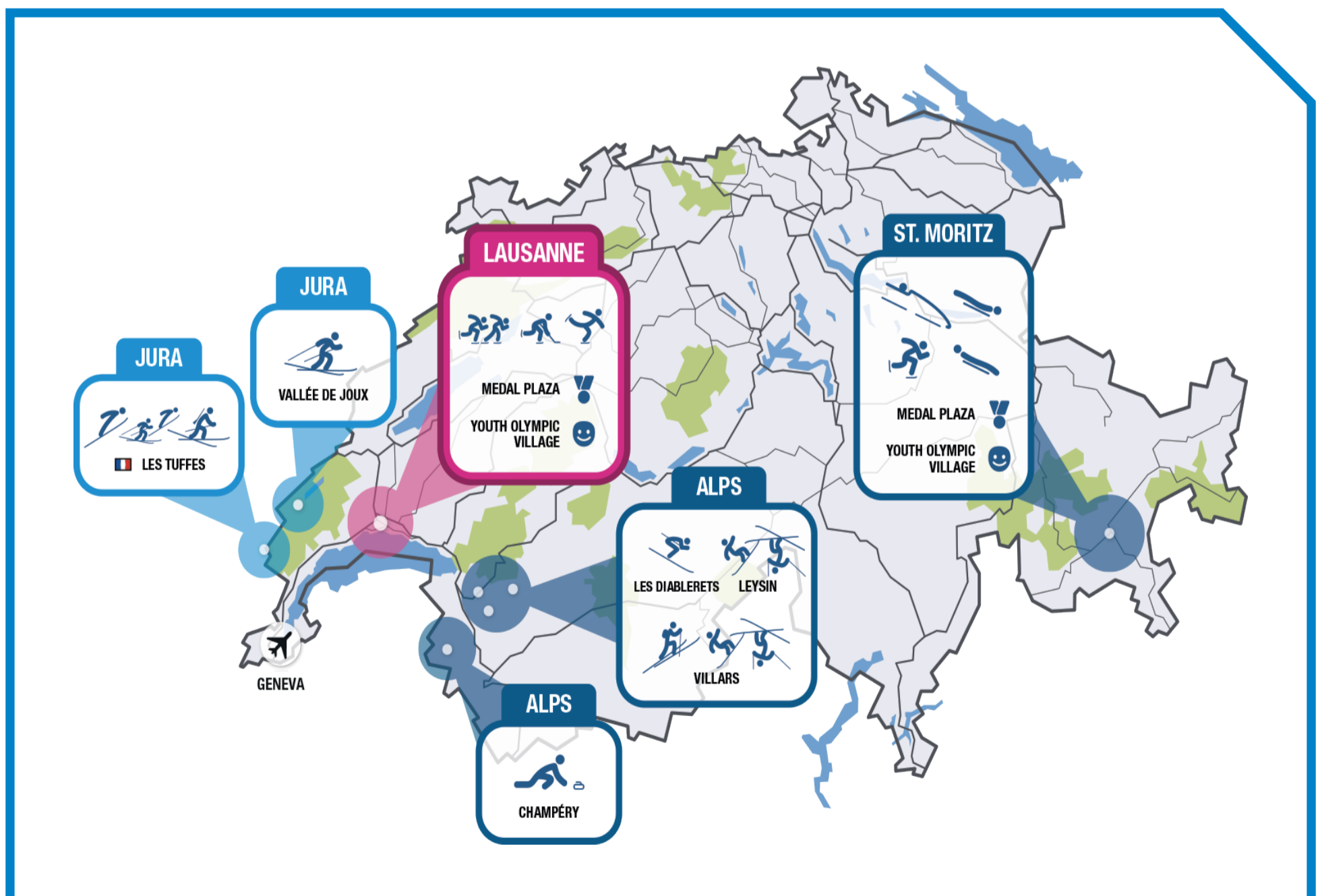


Lausanne 2020 has the ambition to create a new sporting platform for young people by getting them actively involved in the preparations and organisation of the event. This means engaging the entire local, regional and even national population with a unique, unifying event to help shape a better world. And it means giving prominence and responsibility to young people by enabling them to become ambassadors for the positive values of sport, acquire new talents and fulfil their potential by becoming the leaders of tomorrow. This is done by making the Youth Olympic Games a laboratory for innovation and an incubator for ideas, and by delving into Switzerland's unique assets and heritage in terms of training, culture and innovation.

Venues

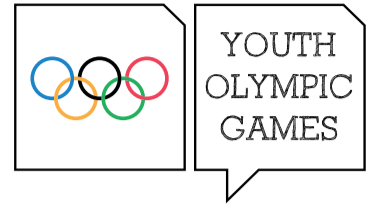
Lausanne will be the heart of the YOG, with the Youth Olympic Village, the opening, medal and closing ceremonies, and the ice sports (hockey, short-track speed skating and figure skating).

A particular feature of this edition of the YOG is that the events will be held in various locations other than the Olympic Capital: Leysin, Villars, Les Diablerets, the Vallée de Joux, Champéry, neighbouring France and St Moritz.



Youth Olympic Village

© J. P. Dürig



© J. P. Dürig

Before it becomes a student residence in the autumn of 2020, the Vortex will host the YOG athletes next January. This oval building is at the heart of the Lausanne University campus. While there will be a culture and education programme for the young athletes at each venue, the Vortex will remain the core of these activities.

New sport

Ski-mountaineering

The individual event is like a marathon in which the athletes wear ski boots rather than running shoes! After a mass start, the athletes tackle a course which includes three climbs and three descents, with a section where the competitors are on foot and carry their skis on their shoulders. The race lasts between 90 minutes and two hours, with an altitude difference of between 1,500 and 1,700 metres.

The sprint is the short version: an altitude difference of around 100m in three minutes of intense effort.

In the relay, each of the teams, composed of three or four competitors, will tackle two climbs and descents, with an altitude difference of around 170 metres.



© ISMF Press Office



© ISMF Press Office

New event



© Toni Saarinen / IIHF

Hockey 3x3

After the introduction of the skills challenge at the YOG Innsbruck 2012, Lausanne 2020 will see a new competition between mixed teams of three players of different nationalities. A surefire way to make this sport even more dynamic!

Youth engagement

FOR, BY and WITH young people: the Youth Olympic Games represent a fantastic opportunity to engage and inspire the next generation. From the outset, the Organising Committee has wanted to offer local young people the chance to play an active role before and during the Games. As a result, Lausanne 2020 has involved almost 130,000 pupils and students in compulsory and further education in the preparations for and organisation of the event. Here are some examples:

- Eracom (*École romande d'arts et communication*): creation of the mascot, sports pictograms and visual identity.
- ECAL (*École cantonale d'art de Lausanne*): design of the Olympic cauldron, medal trays and podiums.
- EDC (*École de la construction*) and C-For! (*Centre de formation technique des SiL*): construction of the Olympic cauldron and manufacture of the podiums.
- HEMU (*Haute École de Musique de Lausanne*): composition of the official song and the music for the medal ceremonies.
- Compulsory education: numerous projects with schoolchildren in the canton of Vaud, such as radio broadcasts on the YOG using a mobile studio.



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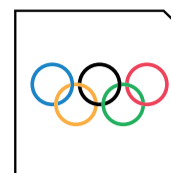


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LAUSANNE
2020



YOUTH
OLYMPIC
GAMES

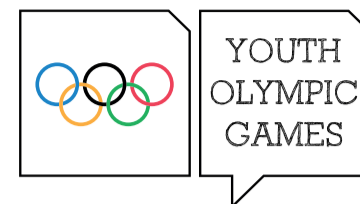


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Mascot



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A total of 140 students at Eracom, an arts and communication school in Lausanne, produced mascot design proposals. The various designs were then presented to children at schools in Lausanne and the surrounding area to get their opinions, with the mascot designs adjusted accordingly. The final decision was then taken by 500 young Swiss athletes aged from 12 to 18, who chose the mascot design to be used.

Yodli is a hybrid animal, made up of several emblematic animals that live in the Swiss mountains: a cow, a goat and a St Bernard. Their different characteristics and relationship with the environment were incorporated into Yodli, to symbolise the diversity of the participants at the Winter YOG Lausanne 2020.

It was unveiled to the public exactly one year before the start of the Games.

Its name is inspired by yodelling, a special kind of song Swiss cowherds use to call their animals.

Medals



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An international competition was run by the IOC to select a design for the medals awarded at the YOG in Lausanne. The winning design will appear on the 534 medals!

Around 300 proposals were received from 60 countries, and the winning design is Beauty in Diversity, by New Zealand's Zakea Page.

When asked about his work, the young street artist said that he had been inspired by the quote from American poet Maya Angelou: "In diversity, there is beauty."

"The spiral represents a culture of respect, friendship and excellence," Zakea explains. "It also celebrates the journey of hard work and dedication made by each individual athlete. These journeys are specific to each athlete, but they all lead to the Youth Olympic Games, where the athletes will compete and showcase their abilities."

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