



1969-2019

1968 International Games

First Special Olympics Event



Special Olympics
Indiana



INAUGURAL SPECIAL OLYMPICS GAMES, HELD IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The spark that became today's Special Olympics movement ignited at the first International Summer Games, held July 20, 1968 at Chicago's Soldier Field. Nearly 1,000 athletes, including 80 from Indiana, marched into the stadium that day with Special Olympics founder Eunice Kennedy Shriver and Chicago Mayor Richard Daly overseeing the festivities. In the five decades since, sports have been the mechanism by which Special Olympics has worked to change the lives of people with intellectual disabilities in Indiana and across the world.



"You are the stars and the world is watching you. By your presence, you send a message to every city, every village, every nation. A message of hope, a message of victory."

Eunice Kennedy Shriver

1987 International Games, South Bend, Indiana