



CONTACT: Anne Warner Cribbs  
2009 National Senior Games Local Organizing Committee  
PHONE: 650.856.3200  
E-MAIL [anne@annecribbsandcompany.com](mailto:anne@annecribbsandcompany.com)

CONTACT Phil Godfrey  
NSGA  
PHONE 225.766.6800  
E-MAIL [Pgodfrey@nsga.com](mailto:Pgodfrey@nsga.com)

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**THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA WILL HOST THE 2009 SUMMER  
NATIONAL SENIOR GAMES – THE SENIOR OLYMPICS**

**PALO ALTO, Dec. 7** --The San Francisco Bay Area will host the 2009 Summer National Senior Games – The Senior Olympics, one of the largest recurring multi-sports events in the United States and the largest multi-sport event in the world for seniors.

Nearly 15,000 top male and female senior athletes, ages 50 and older, from across the United States are projected to compete in 18 different sports within separate age divisions at venues located throughout the San Francisco Bay Area during the 15-day event, set for August 1 – 15, 2009.

The National Senior Games Association's (NSGA) Board of Directors selected the San Francisco Bay Area as the host city from among 10 communities that responded to the NSGA's Request For Proposal. Last May, the NSGA chose the San Francisco Bay Area as one of two finalists and then conducted a three-day site evaluation visit in August.

“The NSGA could not be more pleased to be bringing our premier event to the San Francisco Bay Area. We are particularly grateful to BASOC and Stanford University for taking the lead on this large and complex event. Our California State Senior Games Championships have been thriving and now we look forward to showing the entire West Coast what the Senior Games is all about,” said Bill Bankhead, CEO of the NSGA.

“The San Francisco Bay Area and California's affinity for active healthy lifestyles makes this partnership uniquely suited to bring NSGA's mission and programs to the hundreds of thousands of seniors that reside in the state. We hope to be a motivating influence so

Bay Area Sports Organizing Committee (BASOC)  
2450 Agnes Way, Palo Alto CA 94303  
Phone 650.856.2234 Fax 650.856.6816 [www.basoc.org](http://www.basoc.org)



that many more seniors might realize the benefits of fitness and thereby improve the quality of their lives as they age,” said Bankhead.

“This is the largest Olympic-affiliated event ever to come to the Bay Area...it will bring more athletes than even the Olympic Games themselves and span a greater range of ages than any other sporting event. The Senior Games are at the heart of the meaning of the Olympic Movement. Though they inspire us all, it’s still true that many people watch the Olympic Games, see mostly younger athletes at the prime of their performance and say, "those athletes are amazing, but that's not me..."With the Senior Games, people of all ages, even those who didn't think they could swim, run or jump anymore, are inspired to a more active, healthy and fulfilling life...that's the TRUE Olympic spirit and the real meaning of the Olympic Movement; a challenge to all of us to be the best we can be,” says Anne Cribbs, President and CEO of BASOC.

Ted Leland, Athletic Director, Stanford University, who was part of the bid team explains, “At Stanford, we love athletic events. We are excited to be the main hub for the 2009 Senior Games...we have a long history of hosting events at Stanford and we look forward to making certain all the athletes have the best competitive experience possible. We know the Bay Area's beautiful weather, world-class facilities, active sports participant and fan base will provide an exciting atmosphere for all the competitors.”

“The athletes’ experience will be second to none,” said Greg Moore, Director of National Games for NSGA. “The Stanford University athletic venues and residential facilities when coupled with the climate and the regional venues proposed for the Games make an unbeatable combination,” said Moore.

The San Francisco Bay Area’s involvement with NSGA began in 2003, when the San Francisco Convention and Visitors Bureau received an invitation to bid on the 2009 Senior Games. The invitation was passed to BASOC in their role as the San Francisco Bay Area’s regional sports organization. BASOC’s Executive Committee reviewed the bid documents, and voted to submit the bid. After review, the NSGA chose the San Francisco Bay Area as one of two finalist cities and visited the Bay Area in August.

The Senior Olympics is expected to draw more than 35,000 people to the San Francisco Bay Area during the two-week period in 2009, using more than 17,000 hotel and dormitory room nights. “ The 2005 Senior Olympics which will be held in Pittsburgh are estimating an economic impact of \$35 million, and we are convinced that the 2009 Senior Games will surpass that figure,” according to John Marks, President and CEO of the San Francisco Convention and Visitors Bureau. “San Francisco is well accustomed to hosting national and international visitors and our entire hospitality community will welcome all



the participants in the 2009 Senior Games. Like others in our corporate community, we stand ready to support the 2009 Senior Games in whatever way we can to help the local organizing committee create a superb and memorable event.”

The hub for the 15-day event will be the Stanford University Campus. While most of the competition venue locations will be on the Stanford Campus, three sports - golf, softball and racquetball will take place at venues outside the campus.

Competitive events will include: archery, badminton, basketball, bowling, cycling, golf, horseshoes, race walk, racquetball, road race, shuffleboard, softball, swimming, table tennis, tennis, track and field, triathlon and volleyball. In addition, soccer, rowing and sailing are being discussed as demonstration sports in 2009.

To compete in the Summer National Senior Games, athletes must be age 50 or older and must qualify at NSGA-member state senior games. The Summer Games have been held in odd-numbered years since 1987, along with the Winter Games held in even-numbered years. The 2003 Summer Games were held in Hampton Roads, VA. The 2005 Senior Games will be held in Pittsburgh and the 2007 Summer Games are planned for Louisville, Kentucky.

For more information on the 2009 Summer National Senior Games – The Senior Olympics and to find out how to volunteer for the event, or serve on a sport planning committee, please call 650.856.3200 or visit [www.basoc.org](http://www.basoc.org).

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