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## Unprecedented Chicago-Area Participation Expected for Olympic Week in America

More than 230,000 Chicago-area students and 15,000 teachers are gearing up for Olympic Week in America, which will take place next week, May 4–May 8. The 700 percent increase in participation over last year reflects the high level of enthusiasm for the Olympic Movement in the final months of Chicago's bid for the 2016 Games. In all, 317 Chicago and 30 suburban schools have registered, and more than 40 Olympians and Paralympians will visit local schools, including Olympian Henry Cejudo, (gold medal, wrestling, 2008) and Paralympian April Holmes (gold medal, track and field, 2008).

Chicago 2016 will be chronicling each day's events with news stories, photos and videos, so check [www.chicago2016.org](http://www.chicago2016.org) often for updates. Below are just some of the highlights:

- **Monday, May 4**—Students will stage their own Opening Ceremonies, including entertainment, pep rallies and a "parade of nations."

- **Tuesday, May 5**—As part of Art and Culture Day,

the World Art Chicago Project reception will feature Olympic-themed art by students from 59 schools, including 12 sister city schools from around the world.

- **Wednesday, May 6**—Chicago high-school students will discuss Olympic-related topics with Boston and London students live in a teleconferenced Teen Summit

- **Thursday, May 7**—A Paralympic Sport Day celebration will take place at Daley Plaza, and 100 sport wheelchairs will be donated to support Paralympic sport programs.

- **Friday, May 8**—Students will compete in their own mock Games and participate in medal ceremonies on Sport and Field Day.

Parents, siblings, friends and community members are all encouraged to attend these events. The week promises to be inspirational and will send a strong signal of support for Chicago 2016's quest to bring the Olympic and Paralympic Games to Chicago. Click [here](#) to learn more about Olympic Week in America.

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