



## 2019 OUTDOOR SPORTS FESTIVAL OPENING CEREMONY INFORMATION

The Parade of Athletes, the Opening Ceremony, Saturday's dinner and the dance for the 2019 Outdoor Sports Festival are held in downtown Decatur. The parade will occur **AFTER** the Opening Ceremony.

In order to make this an enjoyable experience, the Opening Ceremony Committee is asking for your cooperation in several areas.

All agencies use their own transportation to travel to downtown Decatur. Directions for the Opening Ceremony and parking along with a map are on the reverse side of this flyer. Please follow these directions and park where instructed. The Civic Center has huge parking lots and is only two short blocks away from the park. Please park in the Civic Center lots and walk the short distance over to Central Park for the Opening Ceremony.

**Charter busses will fit in the Civic Center lots – drivers just need to stay as far to the left as possible as you turn into the parking lot entrances.**

If you have athletes with mobility issues and need to drop off at Central Park, then **drop off teams on North Park Street**. DO NOT use Franklin Street, this is a busy street. Vehicles will unload passengers and then drive to the Civic Center to park. Please unload as quickly as possible.

Line-up for the Opening Ceremony begins at 5:45 pm at Central Park. The Opening Ceremony will take place in the park. Following the Opening Ceremony, agencies will parade two blocks to the Civic Center. Dinner is served in the Civic Center. Everyone will eat at the same time. Dinner is set to be served at 7:00 pm – **BE ON TIME**. The caterer will be able to serve our group in a very short period of time so if you arrive after 7:15 pm and still expect to eat then you will be out of luck!

The dance will also take place in the Civic Center. A DJ is scheduled from 7:30 – 9:00 pm. The Civic Center is very large so all the tables from dinner will remain standing through the dance to allow athletes to sit down if they want.

**SMOKING:** Special Olympics venues are non-smoking. Smoking will not be allowed at the Opening Ceremony, in the parade or inside the Civic Center. The whole interior of the Civic Center is non-smoking. There are designated smoking areas located outside the Civic Center.

## DIRECTIONS/PARKING FOR OPENING CEREMONY & PARADE OF ATHLETES

**From the North:** Take Route 51 south into downtown Decatur. At E. Main Street, turn left (east) and proceed to Franklin Street. Turn left (north) on Franklin Street and drive to North Street and turn right (east). The Civic Center parking lots are on the left (see map below). After parking in the lot please walk the short distance back to Central Park.

**From the South:** Take Route 51 north into downtown Decatur. Route 51 becomes Franklin Street in downtown Decatur. Drive past Central Park (on your left) and proceed to North Street and turn right (east). The Civic Center parking lots are on the left (see map below). After parking in the lot, please walk the short distance back to Central Park.

**From the East or West:** Use the map in the Coaches Handbook to get to Route 51. If you are on Route 51 and north of downtown then use the directions listed above for *From the North*. If you are on Route 51 and south of downtown Decatur then use the directions listed above for *From the South*.

### MAP LOCATIONS

#1 = Central Park for Opening Ceremony    #2 = Civic Center

