



Akron JCC Maccabi Games Facts

What: The JCC Maccabi Games, an annual international Olympic-style, athletic, cultural and social event that has united Jewish teens since 1982.

When: August 11-15, 2008 in Akron. Visiting delegations will arrive in Akron on August 10.

Who: Jewish teens ages 13-16. We expect more than 550 people to visit from out-of-town in delegations from communities across the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Israel. A final roster of visiting delegations will be available in October. We also expect approximately 80 Jewish teens from the Akron area to participate. Jewish young people age 12 from the Akron area are also invited to participate. The event will rely on 300 volunteers, who we hope will be Akron-area from all backgrounds and walks of life.

Where: Athletic competitions will take place at venues throughout the Akron area. The hub of the event will be the Shaw JCC of Akron, 750 White Pond Drive. JCC Maccabi Games competitions will also take place in San Diego from August 3-8 and Detroit from August 17-22. Akron, the smallest city ever asked to host the event, was chosen as a host city by the JCC Maccabi Games organization, part of the Jewish Community Centers of North America (JCCA).

Sports: Boys and Girls Basketball, Boys and Girls Soccer, Golf, Tennis, Bowling, Track and Field, Boys NFL Flag Football. All individual sports are co-ed.

Activities: Day of Caring and Sharing community service project; social and cultural activities including evening events; programs with cultural ambassadors from Israel; commemoration of the eleven Israeli athletes murdered at the 1972 Olympics in Munich.

Supporters: The Shaw JCC of Akron is grateful for the early support of the City of Akron, Children's Hospital and the University of Akron.

About the Shaw JCC of Akron: The Shaw JCC of Akron, located at 750 White Pond Drive, is open to all members of our community without regard to race, gender, religious preference, marital, or economic status. For more information on membership at Shaw JCC or on our fitness, sports, recreation, aquatics, education or cultural programs, please visit www.shawjcc.org or call 330-867-7850.

About today's musicians: The ensemble playing the Olympic Theme at today's press conference is led by trumpeter Josh Rzepka, a native of Akron's Jewish community. Rzepka graduated in December 2007 from Oberlin College Conservatory of Music with a degree in classical and jazz performance, and studies with renowned jazz trumpeter Kenny Davis. Rzepka has performed with the Oberlin Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, and has given recitals in Oberlin and Akron.

Akron JCC Maccabi Games Steering Committee (as of August 29, 2007)

Marc Gertz and Judge Marvin Shapiro - Co Chairs
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Erwin Greenblatt – NFL Flag Football
Mike Segal – Track and Field
Jim Levin - Bowling