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2024 Opening Ceremonies to Start Off the State Games

The Big Sky State Games Opening Ceremonies will kick-start the 39th Annual Games on Friday, July 19, 2024, at Wendy's Field in Daylis Stadium. The Annual Soaked Fun Run will start at 5:15 p.m. in Pioneer Park. Gates will open at Daylis Stadium at 5:00 p.m. for the pre-Games Festival featuring a climbing wall, family entertainment and games, food trucks, and souvenirs. Opening Ceremonies will start at 7:00 p.m. with the Parade of Athletes, which will include representation of athletes in all 39 sports of the Games, the Montana Mile, and traditional torch lighting. Admission is free!

The Food Truck Olympics are back this year. Enjoy your favorite local food and don't forget to vote for your favorite food truck using the QR code! Gold, Silver and Bronze medals will be awarded!

The Food Truck Olympics will feature the following vendors:

- The Rollin' Donut
- Summer Snow
- Montana Popcorn Company
- Bailey's Frozen Novelties
- Khanthaly's Eggrolls
- Pops Tots
- Let's Get Fresh
- Lil' Red Wagon
- Rollin Ritos
- Fingers and Fries
- Honeybee Lemonade

FREE Pre-Games activities include: Balloon animals, basketball hoop, climbing wall, frisbee contest, food trucks, and more. Another Opening Ceremonies highlight includes live music by Logan Hughes.

The evening's program includes: State Games National Anthem Contest Winner, Zoey Zimmerman; the Rimview Dance Studio, the Mascot Race, the Montana Mile, the Parade of Athletes, the 2024 Athletes of the Year, and the Torch Lighting. All participants walking in the Parade of Athletes receive a free sticker and a chance to win \$100.

State Games Character Counts Scholarship Winners are: Kennadie Peterman of Skyview High School, Ainsley McFarland of Billings West High School, Syler Pizzolato of Billings Senior High School, and Ameliya Doney of Wolf Point High School.

The 2024 Torchlighter is Katie Hoff, an eight-time World Champion, three-time World Record Holder, two-time Olympian and three-time Olympic Medalist in Swimming. Hoff is still the current American Record Holder in 400 IM, a record that continues to hold up for 16 years and counting. At age 15, Hoff represented the United States at the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens and at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing she was awarded a Silver in the 400 Meter Freestyle, Bronze in 400 Meter Individual Medley and Bronze in the 4 X 200 meter Free Relay.

Major sponsors of the Big Sky State Games are Kampgrounds of America, First Interstate Bank, and BlueCross BlueShield of Montana. Opening Ceremonies are sponsored by Wendy's.