



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 14, 2026

CONTACT: Liana Susott (406) 254-7426

Info@bigskygames.org

2026 Opening Ceremonies to Start Off the State Games- Free Admission

The Big Sky State Games Opening Ceremonies will kick-start the 41 Annual Games on Friday, July 17, 2026, at Lockwood High School Stadium. The Annual Soaked Fun Run will start at 5:15 p.m. at Lockwood High School. Athlete Fun Zone will start 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 40 sports of the Games, the Montana Mile, the Montana 100m, and traditional torch lighting. Admission is free!

The Food Truck Battle 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:

- LuLu Lemonade & Crepe Diem
- Summer Snow
- Bailey's Frozen Novelties
- Let's Get Fresh
- Taste of Asia Inc
- Lil' Red Wagon
- Fingers and Fries

FREE games at the Athlete Fun Zone include: Balloon animals, free throw contest, axe throwing, photo booth, climbing wall, face painting, food trucks, and more.

The evening's program includes: State Games National Anthem Contest Winner, Sommer Green; the Rimview Dance Studio, the Mascot Race, the Montana Mile, NEW Montana 100 Meter, the Parade of Athletes, the 2024 Athletes of the Year, and the Torch Lighting. All participants walking in the Parade of Athletes receive a commemorative bag tag!

State Games Character Counts Scholarship Winners are: Danyka Doll of Skyview High School, Cambry Magone of Billings West High School, Lyla Ewen of Winifred High School and Kinzie Campbell of North Star High School.

The 2026 Torchlighter Konnor Ralph, local Montana Olympian Konnor Ralph will be lighting the cauldron on Friday, July 17 at Opening Ceremonies. Konnor competed in the 2026 Olympics in both Slopestyle and Big Air, placing 9th overall in Slopestyle and an incredible 5th in Men's Big Air. We are beyond excited to welcome a former Big Sky State Games athlete back to kick off our Opening Ceremonies. Join us for a chance to meet Konnor in person at Lockwood High School in Billings, MT.

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

###