

Irving to celebrate Tokyo Olympics with opening ceremony, skateboarding, boxing and fun run

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Water polo demonstrations, table tennis tournaments and a boxing tournament are part of the celebration this weekend.



Irving will host its first-ever Olympic Day, with an Opening Ceremony, cricket demonstrations, races and more. (Jae C. Hong)

The Tokyo Olympics are just a few weeks away, but the celebration will begin this week in Irving.

Irving will host its first-ever Olympic Day, with cricket and water polo demonstrations, archery, table tennis tournaments, boxing and more.

Festivities begin Thursday with an opening ceremony and symbolic torch lighting and then extend into the weekend.

Here's a list of events:

Thursday

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- **Opening Ceremony** and symbolic torch lighting, 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Levy Event Plaza, 501 E. Las Colinas Blvd. Ray Cerda, an Olympic torch bearer for the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, will light the symbolic torch. Cerda was a talented high school football player when a car accident left him a quadriplegic. He went on to compete as a para-athlete in track at The University of Texas at Arlington and then served for more than two decades as the director of parks and recreation in Irving.
 - **Boxing tournament**, 7 p.m. at Irving Police Athletic League, 1550 Rock Island Road

Friday

- **Skateboarding exhibition**, 6-8 p.m., Lively Skate Park, 909 N. O'Connor Road
- **Water polo exhibition**, 6-8 p.m., North Lake College Natatorium, 5001 N MacArthur Blvd.

Saturday

- **Cricket demonstrations**, 9-11 a.m. at Riverside Multifields, 8954 Riverside Drive
- **Levy Field Day**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Levy Event Plaza, 501 E. Las Colinas Blvd. Events and demonstrations will include archery, bocce ball and a soccer clinic.
- **Table tennis tournament** for ages 13 to 17, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Senter Park Recreation Center, 901 Center Road. Registration is \$10.
- **Olympic Fun Run**, 5K and 10K races, 6:40 a.m., around Las Colinas and Lake Carolyn. Registration is \$15 to \$40.

Olympic Day is a worldwide annual event created in 1948 by the International Olympic Committee to give people everywhere opportunities to participate in sports.

In Irving, the U.S.-Mexico Cultural and Education Foundation is hosting Olympic Day with several partners, including the city, [Visit Irving](#), Irving Marathon and the Japan-America Society of Dallas Fort Worth.

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