

MEDIA RELEASE

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Over 100 National State Reps to Visit Cleveland for 2013 Summer National Senior Games Preparations - January 26-28th

CLEVELAND, Ohio (January 24, 2012) – The Greater Cleveland Sports Commission in conjunction with the 2013 National Senior Games Local Organizing Committee will welcome over 100 representatives from over 35 State Games Member Organizations to Cleveland from January 26-28 for the annual National Senior Games Association (NSGA) Conference. Representatives will visit venues for the 2013 Summer National Senior Games, elect new directors of the Association, attend educational sessions and review the 2012-2013 NSGA Rules Book. Members will also have the opportunity to explore the City of Cleveland, making and donating build-a-bears for the Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital and visit popular tourist attractions such as the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum.

"We are thrilled to welcome all the state games member organizations and the National Senior Game Association staff to Cleveland for the 2013 National Senior Games annual conference. This will be a monumental event for our region that will attract more than 14,000 athletes and 20,000 plus friends and family, resulting in an estimated \$35 million economic impact. The Greater Cleveland Sports Commission appreciates the opportunity to host such a remarkable event and looks forward to collaborative efforts that will be instrumental to exceeding expectations for all," stated David Gilbert, President and CEO of the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission.

The conference, meetings and educational sessions will take place at the Renaissance Cleveland Hotel. Venue tours are scheduled for Friday, January 27th and will introduce members to the various sports facilities including: Victory Sports Park (softball), Case Western Reserve University (horseshoes, track and field, volleyball), Cleveland State University (basketball, pickleball, racquetball, swimming, tennis) and Cleveland Public Auditorium (badminton, shuffleboard, table tennis).

Cleveland will also host the 2012 Ohio Senior Olympics, an open-state qualifying event for the 2013 Summer National Senior Games, from July 26-28 where an estimated 1,000 athletes ages 50+ will compete in 19 medal-contending sports in venues across Northeast Ohio.

The 2013 Summer National Senior Games will welcome athletes ages 50+ from across the United States to participate in 19 medal-contending sports from July 21-August 5, 2013 in various venues across Northeast Ohio. A Year of Vitality community programming series will also encompass the event, promoting active lifestyles for all with activities and educational opportunities. Kicking off in July 2012 and leading up to the Games, the series will include mostly free activities and special events for people over age 50. For more information on the 2013 Summer National Senior Games, please visit www.cleveland2013.com.

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INVITATION TO PRESS OPPORTUNITY:

Date: Thursday, January 26, 2012

Time: 6:30pm – 8:30pm – short program to begin at 7:00pm

Location: House of Blues, 308 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Details: Join the National Senior Games Association and the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission as they welcome and address the state games representatives and discuss preparations and planning for the 2013 National Senior Games.

Guest speakers to include: Mayor Frank G. Jackson (City of Cleveland); Jeff Friedman (President and CEO of Associated Estates and 2013 National Senior Games Co-Chair); David Gilbert (President and CEO of the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission); Dana Brown (Board Chair for National Senior Games Association).

Interview opportunities to follow. Please note dinner is not included.

RSVP: Those planning on attending the press opportunity should RSVP to Jenny Popis at 216-363-1128 or jpopis@clevelandports.org.

About the 2013 Summer National Senior Games: The 2013 Summer National Senior Games will welcome athletes ages 50+ from across the United States to participate in 19 medal-contending sports. Competitions are slated for July 21-August 5, 2013 and will take place in various venues across Northeast Ohio. The event is estimated to bring over \$35 million in economic activity to the region. A Year of Vitality community programming series will also encompass the event, promoting active lifestyles for all with activities and educational opportunities. Kicking off in July 2012 and leading up to the Games, the series will include mostly free activities and special events for people over age 50. For more information on the 2013 Summer National Senior Games, please visit www.cleveland2013.com.

About the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission: The Greater Cleveland Sports Commission prides itself on being one of the most distinguished Sports Commissions in the country, effectively leveraging sports events and activities to further economic development in Northeast Ohio. The philosophy of the Sports Commission sets it apart from others by operating as an economic and community development organization utilizing sports as a vehicle to forward other community agendas. The organization takes the unique approach of becoming a management and financial partner in each event with the goal of producing events that are more successful in Cleveland than other cities in which they have been held. Since 2000, the Sports Commission has been responsible for attracting, creating and/or managing over 120 sporting events resulting in more than \$370 million in economic activity. For more information, please visit www.clevelandports.org.

About the National Senior Games Association: The National Senior Games Association is a non-profit member of the United States Olympic Committee dedicated to motivating senior men and women to lead a healthy lifestyle through the senior games movement. The organization governs the Summer National Senior Games, the largest multi-sport event in the world for seniors, and other national senior athletic events. It is an umbrella for member state organizations across the United States that host State Senior Games or Senior Olympics. The NSGA supports and sanctions these member state organizations so that adults can participate in their state in events year-round. www.nsga.com.

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