



For Immediate Release:

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Move over, London Kankakee County to again host state's track and field Junior Olympics

KANKAKEE, IL – March 27, 2012 - London won't be the only site for Olympic games this summer. For the third time and thanks to superior facilities, Kankakee County will host the USA Track & Field (USATF) Illinois Association Junior Olympic and Masters and Open State Track and Field Championships on June 9 and June 22–24 at Kankakee High School.

Sponsored by the Kankakee County Convention and Visitors Bureau (KCCVB) and facilitated by the Kankakee Track Club, the event is expected to draw 1,200 athletes of all ages and thousands of spectators from across the state. It is considered one of the state's largest track and field meets. In 2010, the last time Kankakee High School hosted the competition, approximately 13,000 attended.

"This is terrific exposure for Kankakee County, and it proves once again that our sports facilities can meet rigorous standards," said Larry Williams, KCCVB executive director. "We're pleased that the area has been chosen again to host this competition, and we're grateful to the Kankakee Track Club for its efforts."

He continued, "This event will undoubtedly have a positive impact on our local economy, as we expect thousands of visitors at our restaurants, hotels and businesses during that weekend."

Jess Gathing, a founder of the Kankakee Track Club, noted that Kankakee High School's recently renovated track "makes it a great place to compete" and appealed to USATF planners.

Event participants will range in age from 6 to 35 and older. The June 9 meet will serve as a qualifier for the Junior Olympic (boys and girls ages 6–18) portion of the competition on June 22–24. The top eight Junior Olympic qualifiers from each June 22–24 event will advance to the Region 7 championship meet in July in Indianapolis. The top five from each event in Indianapolis will compete in the National Junior Olympic Track and Field Championships in Baltimore, Md., later that month.

Events start at 8 a.m. and will be open to the public. Admission will be \$7 per day or \$10 for a meet pass; there will be no charge for children 5 years of age and younger. For more information, contact the KCCVB at 815-935-7390 or at www.visitkankakeecounty.com.

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