



Olympic Week in America

The Pacific Association/USATF wants you to know about this year's Olympic Week in America program from the United States Olympic Committee (USOC). Olympic Week in America is a comprehensive, week-long unit about the Olympic Games for grades kindergarten through 8. While it may be implemented any time during the school year, it has been released to coincide with National Physical Fitness and Sports Month, which occurs in May, as well as the USOC's own Olympic Week, May 5-9, 2008.

The Olympic Week in America program was created for educators' use in expanding student awareness and appreciation for the Olympic and Paralympic Games and the Olympic Movement. Its lessons and activities enhance core curricula taught in the classroom. Through a focus on the Olympic Games, and a special emphasis this year on the Olympic Games in Beijing, students will reinforce their skills in language arts, social studies, math, science, and physical education.

The Olympic Week in America program kicks off with a school proclamation about Olympic Week in America and the worldwide historical significance of the Olympic Games. In addition to offering suggestions for opening and closing ceremonies, the materials outline field day-type activities for students to explore their own physical abilities. Schools may conduct their own physical fitness testing, or they may opt to use the USOC's Jr. Olympic Skills program, a national athletic program that currently reaches more than 1.5 million young people through skills training and competition in four sports: basketball, soccer, tennis, and track and field. An administrative handbook for Jr. Olympic Skills is included with the Olympic Week in America materials.

All materials for Olympic Week in America are being distributed free to educators through www.usolympicteam.com. Educators may access the materials by registering under Olympic Academy—Education and Outreach.

I hope you'll take advantage of these unique materials.

Sincerely,

PA/USATF