



Welcome to the 2014 Gay Games

[Gay Games 9 Cleveland+Akron](#) is on its mark for **9-16 August 2014** – the largest diverse multi-sport competition in the world. We're getting ready for eight days of fun, competition, inclusion, Personal Best™ and celebration of the LGBT community.

Together, we will make the 35+ sports and cultural competitions, festival village and other parties the best you've ever enjoyed.

We want you to be involved - share your Gay Games story, like us on [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#), [volunteer](#), [donate](#), and most importantly plan to [participate](#) in the Games.

In this issue:

1. [Why You Should Register Today](#)
2. [Spotlight on Participants](#)
3. [Spotlight on Sports](#)
4. [Spotlight on Cleveland+Akron](#)
5. [Why Gay Games](#)
6. [Housing Reservations Open](#)
7. [Gift of the Games](#)
8. [Support Today](#)
9. [Subscribe](#)



Overview Edition

SPORTS & CULTURE

Click on event for more information.

- [Badminton](#)
- [Band](#)
- [Basketball](#)
- [Beach Volleyball](#)
- [Bodybuilding](#)
- [Bowling](#)
- [Cheer](#)
- [Chorus](#)
- [Cycling](#)
- [DanceSport](#)
- [Darts](#)
- [Diving](#)
- [Figure Skating](#)
- [Flag Football](#)
- [Golf](#)
- [Ice Hockey](#)
- [Marathon/Half-Marathon](#)
- [Martial Arts](#)
- [Open Water Swim](#)
- [Pool \(Billiards\)](#)
- [Powerlifting](#)
- [Racquetball](#)
- [Road Races \(5K & 10K\)](#)
- [Rowing](#)
- [Sailing](#)
- [Soccer \(Football\)](#)
- [Softball](#)
- [Squash](#)
- [Swimming](#)
- [Synchronized Swimming](#)
- [Table Tennis](#)

Make History and Register Today

Are you planning to attend? Register now to show your commitment to the Games' making history in America's heartland. Early registrations show support for the Gay Games, Cleveland+Akron and the LGBT community as a whole. So far, participants have registered from 17 countries and 34 states. Want to add your name to the list? Click [here](#).

General registration must be completed first by all participants. It entitles you to march in opening ceremony, receive the participant bag and obtain your Games accreditation.

If you plan to participate in a sport or cultural event, you must complete that registration after general registration. Click on the sports and culture links to the right to learn more about the specifics for your particular event(s).

- [Tennis](#)
- [Track and Field](#)
- [Triathlon](#)
- [Volleyball](#)
- [Water Polo](#)
- [Wrestling](#)

[Gay Games 9 Schedule](#)

Share Your Event

Have a sporting, fundraising or other event to share with Gay Games supporters? Email us [here](#). Please send by 15th of month for inclusion in the next e-newsletter (publishes early month.)

Spotlight on Participants:

Lithuania Runner First to Register

Marathoner **Aliona Netesova**, 24, was the first participant to register for the 2014 Gay Games Cleveland+Akron. I hope that my participation in the Gay Games will help shape the LGBT sporting community in Lithuania, and to encourage gay athletes coming out. It will be a great event for me and my country. I'll be Lithuania's second gay athlete to participate in the Games. Read the full Q&A with Aliona [here](#).



Spotlight on Sports

In 2014, [swimmers](#), [divers](#) and [synchronized swimmers](#) will be in the pool at [Busbey Natatorium](#) at Cleveland State University. The venue has hosted NCAA and U.S. Masters Swimming championships.

Nearby on the Cleveland State University campus, [basketball](#) players will take to the court in [Woodling Gymnasium](#).



[Marathoners](#) and [half-marathoners](#) will be running in Akron on a portion of one of the top 50 marathon courses in the United States. The [Akron Marathon](#) attracts more than

15,000 runners each year.

[Softball](#) players will enjoy the professional Firestone Stadium in Akron, home to the National Pro Fastpitch Softball League's [Akron Rangers](#).



[Open water swimmers](#) will take advantage of Cleveland's location on one of the world's "great lakes." They can appreciate one of the best views of Cleveland's skyline at [Edgewater Park](#) just before jumping into Lake Erie for the competition.

Spotlight on Cleveland+Akron

A MUST-STOP FOR PRESIDENT AND MILLIONS OF OTHERS

Foodies, tourists, locals and even U.S. President Barack Obama make the [West Side Market](#) a must-stop visit. The 100-year-old market on West 25th Street in Cleveland offers more than 100 ethnically diverse vendors, selling fine meats, fresh vegetables, baked goods, dairy products, flowers and ready-to-eat foods, herbs, candy and nuts. More than 1 million visited in 2011 - including the Travel Channel and Food Network.



GRAB A BEER

Before or after shopping at the West Side Market, tour the eclectic neighborhood and grab one of the city's original brews at [Great Lakes Brewing Co.](#) Pick up a Dortmunder Gold or one of the brewery's many other specially crafted ales.

For more on visiting Cleveland, visit www.positivelycleveland.com.

VISIT THE LAP OF LUXURY

See how the co-founder of Goodyear lived at [Stan Hywet Hall](#) in Akron. The 65-room country estate is home to French and Italian reproduction furniture, 18th century British portraits and priceless heirlooms.



WATCH A PRO GAME

The [Akron Aeros](#) take the field in downtown Akron at Canal Park. The Double AA affiliate of Major League Baseball's Cleveland Indians offers the fun of a minor league game in a close-up atmosphere, a great time for everyone.

Visit www.visitakron-summit.org for even more details on making your travels to Akron great.

Why Gay Games

If you're new to the Games, you may not be familiar with its history. The Games are open to all adults regardless of sexual orientation or athletic ability.

Conceived in 1980 by Dr. Tom Waddell, the Gay Games were created as a "vehicle of change." Since that time, the Gay Games have built an international legacy of changing cultural, social and political attitudes toward LGBT people across the globe, while empowering tens of thousands with the benefits of sports competition.

"The Gay Games are not separatist, they are not exclusive, they are not oriented to victory, and they are not for commercial gain," Waddell said before his death in 1987. "They are, however, intended to bring a global community together in friendship, to experience participation, to elevate consciousness and self-esteem, and to achieve a form of cultural and intellectual synergy.

Since 1982, the Gay Games are held every four years. Past host cities include: San Francisco, Vancouver, Sydney, New York, Amsterdam and Chicago.

The Cologne Games in 2010 attracted more than 10,000 participants from approximately 70 countries - comparable to the Summer Olympics.

The [Federation of Gay Games](#) is the ongoing volunteer-based organization that promotes the mission and selects the host city for the Games themselves.

Gay Games offers a safe and welcoming environment where gay and lesbian athletes can gather and compete in an atmosphere free of discrimination. About 10 percent of participants have been from the non-LGBT community, often friends and family members of LGBT participants.

Housing Reservations Now Open

The **2014 Gay Games Cleveland+Akron** opened its online lodging registration site earlier than any previous Games. It's the only place where you can make housing reservations before 16 August 2013.

Visit our [lodging page](#) for more detailed information, charts with hotel proximity to confirmed venues, and the direct link to the lodging reservation site

Receive the special 2014 Gay Games rate at more than 30 Cleveland+Akron hotels. Plus, you will receive additional discounts when you show your Games hotel key at specially identified sites.

Gift of Games

Want to give the Gift of Games? Pay the General Registration fee for someone special and we'll give you a participate gift certificate with a special code the recipient can use when she or he registers for the Games.

Contact agynn@GG9cle.com for more information or to make arrangements today.

Support Today

Want to your support for the 2014 Gay Games Cleveland+Akron? Make a donation or become a sponsor for the Games. Click [here](#) to donate or contact Development Director Mary Zaller at mzaller@GG9CLE.com for more information.

On Your Mark ... Get Set ... Games

You received this email because you are subscribed to the Federation of Gay Games or Gay Games 9.

[Click here to manage your subscriptions or to unsubscribe.](#)

[Subscribe to the GG9 E-News](#) • [Forward to a Friend](#)