



# History of the Games

## How It All Began

The AAU Junior Olympic Games originated from ‘telegraphic’ state track and field competitions. National Champions were determined through telephone and/or mail entries instead of head-to-head competition. In 1949, the AAU conducted its first ‘live’ national meet in Cleveland, Ohio — giving birth to the AAU Youth Sports Program. Because of the success of the national track and field head-to-head competition, AAU leaders solicited support from the business and corporate sector. The Chevrolet Division of General Motors Corporation and the Quaker Oats Company assisted the AAU in their vision of the number of youngsters that could be helped. The AAU Youth Sports Program grew and grew. As the popularity of the AAU Youth Sports Program increased, the AAU leaders decided to conduct two national championships simultaneously. The idea became fruition when Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey proclaimed the first AAU Junior Olympic Games open on August 21, 1967 in downtown Washington, D.C at the Departmental Auditorium on Constitution Avenue.

### First AAU Junior Olympic Games

Five hundred twenty-three athletes competed in the inaugural AAU Junior Olympic Games in Washington, D.C. in 1967. National champions were determined in swimming and track and field. This marked the first time in the history of the AAU Youth Sports Program that two national championships were held at the same time. Eighteen AAU records in swimming and three in track and field were established.

### Where It's Been

Since its beginnings in Washington, D.C., the AAU Junior Olympic Games has been conducted in 19 states and 29 cities across the United States of America. Below is a breakdown of where we have been and how we have grown!



### Where AAU Junior Olympic Games Have Been

Year	Location	Sports	Athletes
1967	Washington, D.C.	2	523
1968	Knoxville, TN	4	690
1969	San Diego, CA	4	600
1970	Knoxville, TN	5	600
1971	Colorado Springs, CO	6	650
1972	Spokane, WA	6	615
1973	Ann Arbor, MI	6	700
1974	Lincoln, NE	8	1,519
1975	Ithaca, NY	8	2,095
1976	Memphis, TN	8	2,300
1977	Lincoln, NE	7	1,700
1978	Lincoln, NE	7	1,763
1979	Lincoln, NE	7	2,349
1980	Santa Clara, CA	7	2,000
1981	Winston-Salem, NC	8	2,351
1982	Memphis, TN	12	3,229
1983	South Bend-Mishawaka, IN	15	4,829
1984	Jacksonville, FL	15	3,460
1985	Iowa City, IA	15	3,300
1986	St. Louis, MO	15	4,848
1987	Syracuse, NY	14	4,159
1988	Lawrence, KS	14	3,949
1989	San Antonio, TX	14	5,200
1990	St. Petersburg, FL	14	5,447
1991	Tallahassee, FL	14	5,866
1992	Rochester, MN	14	5,938
1993	Knoxville, TN	16	8,615
1994	Cocoa Beach, FL	23	8,902
1995	Des Moines, IA	27	8,734
1996	New Orleans, LA	24	9,815
1997	Charlotte, NC	24	12,488
1998	Hampton Roads, VA	24	11,355
1999	Cleveland, OH	26	12,661
2000	Central Florida	26	13,587
2001	Hampton Roads, VA	26	13,282
2002	Knoxville, TN	23	13,657
2003	Detroit, MI	21	TBD