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LOCATION: Youth Olympic Village, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
LANGUAGE: English

Broadcast quality footage available at the IOC Newsroom: http://iocnewsroom.com

STORY SCRIPT:

The incredible performances of the 4,000 athletes over the past 12 days of competition – as well as the similarly impressive efforts of the 8,000 volunteers – were celebrated in a spectacular Closing Ceremony at the Youth Olympic Village on Thursday (18th October) as the curtain came down on Buenos Aires 2018.

After some artistic performances, a YOG highlights reel video and the traditional parade of National Olympic Committees, the flag was passed to Dakar, the host of the next YOG in 2022.

The symbolic extinguishing of the Olympic flame was then followed by a fireworks display and finally an audio-visual extravaganza, as ‘Game Changers’ from more than 200 countries celebrated the final night of their once-in-a-lifetime experience.

In addition to the special memories that have been created in Buenos Aires for the athletes and the thousands of fans who have supported them, the YOG will leave a significant legacy in the south of the city, where the Games have been a catalyst for a major social and urban renovation project.

The newly-built Youth Olympic Village, where the young athletes have been staying during the Games, will soon be converted into affordable housing for more than 6,000 people, creating a new neighbourhood within the city.

The nearby Youth Olympic Park, which was home to 13 of the 32 sports on the YOG programme, will also provide an important legacy for high-level Argentinean sport after the YOG, as it will become the new headquarters for the country’s elite sports centre (CeNARD).
With these new facilities and the amazing atmosphere that the Games have created in Buenos Aires, IOC President Thomas Bach is in little doubt as to the benefits that the city will enjoy from the YOG.

“The Games will leave a great legacy for Argentina and Buenos Aires,” he said. “These Youth Olympic Games have united the country and made all Argentinians very proud; and they have every reason to be extremely proud. The Argentinian athletes have left a great legacy for sport within this country and will serve as role models for future generations thanks to the wonderful success they have achieved. These were truly the Youth Olympic Games of a new era. They were more urban, more female and more inclusive than any edition of the Olympic Games before – not only the Youth Games”.

So while the YOG Buenos Aires 2018 may be ending, it is clear that their impact will still be felt long into the future.

Buenos Aires 2018 is the third edition of the Summer Youth Olympic Games (YOG) to be held, bringing together the world’s best young athletes between the ages of 15 and 18. For the first time in Olympic history the Games had gender equality, with equal numbers of males and females competing in the 32-sport programme.

Almost 4,000 athletes from 206 National Olympic Committees have competed for 1,250 medals. The Youth Olympic Games Buenos Aires 2018 featured new sports and many new disciplines and events, reflecting the passions of the ‘Game Changers’, a new generation of athletes and fans.

The event offered a glimpse into the future of the Games as the new programme will introduce several innovations that will be replicated at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

The first Summer Youth Olympic Games took place in Singapore in 2010. The second edition was held in the Chinese city of Nanjing in 2014.

SHOTLIST:

00:01 Wide shot of the closing ceremony at the Youth Olympic Village.
00:07 Action on stage from the Closing ceremony.
00:11 Cutaway of IOC President Thomas Bach watching the closing ceremony in the middle of the crowd.
00:14 The Argentinian anthem is played while the national and the Olympic Flags weave in the wind.
00:21 The athletes carry in their national flags.
00:25 Wide shot of the crowd.
00:27 Shots of Youth Olympic Games volunteers during the games and on stage.
00:47 Various shots of the crowd.
00:55 The International Olympic Committee anthem is played while the flag goes down.
01:01 Wide shot of the stage.
01:03 Close up of the Olympic Flag.
01:09 Close up of the Mayor of Buenos Aires (Horacio Rodríguez Larreta) waving the Olympic flag on stage.
01:13 Wide of Horacio Rodríguez Larreta waving the Olympic flag on the stage.
01:15 Close up of IOC President Thomas Bach waving the Olympic flag on the stage.
01:20 Pan shot of IOC President Thomas Bach waving the Olympic Flag on stage.
01:25 Representative of Youth Olympic Games Senegal 2022 waves the Olympic flag on stage.
01:29 Close up of the Senegalese flag.
01:33 Close up of the Argentine flag next to the Senegalese flag

01:36 SOUNDITE IOC President Thomas Bach. (English Language)
“And now, I have a sad duty to fulfill. Because now I have to say a sentence which we may not like, but it’s time. So I have to say I declare closed the Third Youth Olympic Games Buenos Aires 2018. Muchas Gracias Argentina, nos vemos en Senegal.”

02:10 Close up of the Olympic flame going out.
02:19 Various aerial shots of the firework display

02:34 SOUNDITE IOC President Thomas Bach (English Language)
Q. Buenos Aires made it a clear objective to have a young and urban Youth Olympic Games. Do you think they have reached this goal?
“Buenos Aires 2018 has exceeded all our expectations and they have overachieved in many respects. These Games were Youth Games on and off the field. We have seen new generations or Argentinians embracing these Games and coming to attend and share the experience with the athletes. They have been more urban with the Urban Park so we have achieved what we wanted to achieve. That means sport has to go where the people are, we cannot retreat in our stadiums and wait for people to come we have to go where they are and this was greatly achieved here in Buenos Aires.”

03:28 SOUNDITE IOC President Thomas Bach (English Language)
Q. The YOG has been a clear success, with venues often reaching maximum capacity. This must be satisfying to the President of the IOC?
“It’s great to see how a vision of a new form of Youth Olympic Games are becoming a reality. We have seen here, a new era of Youth Olympic Games with full gender parity, which is very important to us and for the reforms we undertook. We have seen the sport going to the urban centre with an Opening Ceremony going to the centre of the city. Games being very inclusive, inviting everybody not only to watch but also to participate and we have seen the new sports we put on the programme that proved to be tremendous successes.”

04:25 SOUNDITE IOC President Thomas Bach (English Language)
Q. What did the people of Buenos Aires bring to the Games?
“It’s overwhelming but in the end, everything comes down to people and there it was the Argentinians who created this atmosphere. This is why I am saying the stars of these Youth Olympic Games were the Argentinians and to see this was extremely encouraging to see the younger generation embrace this youth Olympic Games and embraced the sport, to see so many youngsters, to see so many families, this shows the relevance of Olympic sport for younger generations in a very good way.”

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