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STORY HEADLINE: PARTY UNDERWAY AS YOUTH OLYMPIC FLAME ARRIVES IN THE OLYMPIC CAPITAL AHEAD OF TORCH TOUR FOR THE WINTER YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES LAUSANNE 2020

LOCATION: Stade Pierre de Coubertin, Lausanne, Switzerland.
DATE: 19 September 2019

LANGUAGE: English, French & German

Broadcast quality footage available at the IOC Newsroom: http://iocnewsroom.com
Credit images: Etat de Vaud

STORY SCRIPT:
From the flame-lighting ceremony in Athens to a celebration with 3,000 school children in the Olympic Capital the party started in style this week ahead of the 110-day Torch Tour around Switzerland for the 3rd Winter Youth Olympic Games Lausanne 2020.

Just a few metres from Olympic House, more than 3,000 school children and 400 guests from across the canton of Vaud gathered Thursday (19th September) at the Pierre de Coubertin Stadium to celebrate the forthcoming Winter Youth Olympic Games, which will take place in just under four months’ time.

The extraordinary event for children aged between 10 to 15 years old was organised by the Canton of Vaud in collaboration with the City of Lausanne and Lausanne 2020 organisers. Two students from each municipality were invited to bring their municipal flag in exchange for the Lausanne 2020 flag to represent the spirit of the Youth Olympic Games and the values of friendship and respect.

The surprise appearance of the Youth Olympic flame, which arrived in Lausanne just the night before, wowed the onlooking crowd when it was carried in by four young athletes, who then lit a ceremonial cauldron in the stadium.

In the presence of IOC President Thomas Bach and Lausanne 2020 President Virginie Faivre, the Lausanne 2020 and Olympic flags were then raised along with the Swiss and French flags in recognition of the event taking place throughout Switzerland and in neighbouring France.
One of the most spectacular moments of the event was the performance by exactly 2,020 students who performed a “flash mob” to represent the cantonal flag in a celebration of unity.

The Youth Olympic flame arrived from Greece on Wednesday evening (18th September) at Geneva International Airport following the torch lighting ceremony using the rays of the sun at the Panathenaic Stadium in Athens on Tuesday (17th September).

A crowd of 1,400 school children, together with Hellenic Olympic Committee and Local Organising Committee representatives from Switzerland witnessed the traditional ceremony, as was carried out at the ancient Olympic Games. The Youth Olympic flame will burn continuously until the opening ceremony of Lausanne 2020 in four months’ time on 9th January.

The flame was then flown from the Greek capital to Switzerland. Touch down on the Geneva Airport runway marked the first stop in Switzerland ahead of the 110-day Torch Tour. Beginning on Saturday (21st September), the Youth Olympic flame will visit each of the 26 Swiss cantons and Les Tuffes in France, bringing the Youth Olympic spirit to local populations.

The Torch Tour will include interactive activities for young people as well as an exciting programme about the Lausanne 2020 Games themselves, topped off with a ceremonial torch lighting by special guests including Olympians.

For the full schedule of the Torch Tour, please go to www.lausanne2020.sport/en/torch-tour. Fans around the world can join the fun by using the Lausanne 2020 flame filter now live on Instagram

President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Thomas Bach, told the thousands of school children gathered at the Stade Pierre de Coubertin in Lausanne, ‘To you young people, you will live a unique experience. Seeing the Youth Olympic Games at home is an incredible opportunity. A memory that will remain for a long time.’

‘These are your Games. So be both actors and spectators. Participate, come and encourage all these athletes who are just a little older than you. Welcome them with the warm hospitality of Lausanne, Vaud and Switzerland, that I know so well.

‘Sport is not just about competitions, medals. It’s also about great moments of emotion, of joy, shared with friends and family. It’s also about Olympic values like friendship, respect, and fair play; values that will serve you for the rest of your life.

‘So once again, come see all these young athletes compete in an Olympic atmosphere. Like them, feel this desire to give everything with participating in the sport we love. To share great moments of friendship with young people from all over the world.’

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Virginie Favier, President of the Organising Committee for the 3rd Winter Youth Olympic Games Lausanne 2020 commented, “This is an important moment for Lausanne 2020, the City of Lausanne, the Canton of Vaud and our entire country.

‘This has been a journey four years in the making. Since 2015, when Lausanne was selected as host of the Winter Youth Olympic Games, we have been working very hard to create a unique Games; Games for young people, by young people and with young people.

‘Today, we are not only lighting the Olympic flame; we are also lighting the Olympic spirit of a whole new generation of young people in Switzerland and around the world.’

Lausanne 2020 will be the 3rd Winter Youth Olympic Games, bringing together the world’s best athletes between the ages of 15 and 18. The Opening Ceremony will be on 9th January 2020, the final day of competition and Closing Ceremony on 22nd January 2020.

The event will take place in and around Lausanne on the shores of Lake Geneva and in the nearby Vaud Alps. Bobsleigh, Skeleton and Luge will take place at St Moritz on the iconic Cresta Run.

It will be the first gender equal Winter Youth Olympic Games following on from the successful summer edition in Buenos Aires last year. There will be 16 disciplines across 8 sports with 81 events, 33 men, 33 women and 15 mixed.

The first Winter Youth Olympic Games took place in Austria, Innsbruck 2012, and the second in Norway, Lillehammer 2016.

SHOTLIST:
00:01 Aerial shot of the Pierre de Coubertin Stadium in Lausanne.
00:06 Action of the Lausanne 2020 mascot Yodli
00:12 Action shots of the torch arriving at the stadium.
00:31 Close up shots of a student lighting a ceremonial cauldron in the stadium.
00:44 Action shots from the crowd waving Lausanne 2020 flags.
00:50 Various action shots from the flash mob routine at the Pierre de Coubertin stadium.
00:59 Close up of Lausanne 2020 mascot Yodli dancing.
01:02 Action from the flash mob.
01:07 Lausanne 2020 flags for each Vaudois municipality are carried by students from the stadium.
01:13 Thomas Bach, IOC President walks onto the stage to make his speech

01:19 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (French Language)
‘Hello everyone, I hope you are having a great time. I am very happy to be with you. To see so many of you all is truly a sign that the 2020 Games in Lausanne are Games by young people, for young people. First of all, a big thank you to the Lausanne 2020 team, its president Virginie Favier and the Canton of Vaud school Directors, for this wonderful initiative. Thank you to the city of Lausanne and the Canton for their support. With a Lausanne 2020 flag in each Vaudois municipality, these Games will be the Games of Lausanne and the entire Canton. They will be Games for everyone. To you young people, you will live a unique experience. Seeing the Youth Olympic Games at home is an
incredible opportunity. A memory that will remain for a long time. These are your Games. So be both actors and spectators. Participate, come and encourage all these athletes who are just a little older than you. Welcome them with the warm hospitality of Lausanne, Vaud and Switzerland, that I know so well. Sport is not just about competitions and medals, it’s also about great moments of emotion, of joy, shared with friends and family. It’s also about Olympic values like friendship, respect, and fair play; values that will serve you for the rest of your life. So once again, come see all these young athletes compete in an Olympic atmosphere. Like them, feel this desire to give everything with participating in the sport we love. To share great moments of friendship with young people from all over the world. And who knows, there may be future athletes of the Youth Olympic Games. Today, back home, in your school, in your town, talk to your friends, your families, your acquaintances. Tell them to participate in this experience which will be an extraordinary adventure. Thanks to the commitment and participation of you and all of us, Lausanne 2020 will be a real success for Lausanne, for the Canton of Vaud and for all of Switzerland. Thank you again and all the best.’

03:23 Wide shot of the crowd applauding the speech from Thomas Bach, IOC President, at the Pierre de Coubertin Stadium in Lausanne.

03:25 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English language)

“It is great to have a Youth Olympic Games at home here in Lausanne next to the IOC Headquarters. This is a good way to stay in touch with the younger generation and we hope that the Youth Olympic Games here in Lausanne can do to the Winter Youth Olympic Games, what Buenos Aires has done for the one in the summer - to be inclusive, to have everybody participating and also to be a laboratory for new sports.”

LOCATION: Geneva Airport, Switzerland.

DATE: 18 September 2019

03:59 SWISS aircraft carrying Olympic flame arrives at Geneva Airport

04:03 President of Lausanne 2020 Virginie Faivre and Director General of the Organising Committee for Winter Youth Olympic Games Lausanne 2020 Ian Logan carry the Youth Olympic flame from the plane.

04:13 Shots of the Lausanne 2020 delegation greeting each other

04:16 Close up shot of the lantern.

04:21 Shots of photographers capturing the Lausanne 2020 delegation with the lantern.

LOCATION: The Panathenaic Stadium, Athens, Greece.

DATE: 17 September 2019

04:33 Pan of the Panathenaic Stadium in Athens, Greece.

04:36 Shot of a section of the 1,400 strong crowd.

04:39 Action from the ceremony.

04:56 The Youth Olympic flame is lit.

05:06 The Youth Olympic flame is passed on to the Lausanne 2020 torch.

05:15 Close up of the lantern.

05:19 President of Lausanne 2020 Virginie Faivre and President of the Hellenic Olympic Committee and IOC Member Spyros Capralos pose for photographers with the lantern.

Video 2

SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (German Language)
Video 3
SOUNDBITE: Virginie Faivre, President of the Organising Committee of the Winter Youth Games Lausanne 2020. (French Language)
Duration 00:30

Video 4
SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (French Language)
Duration 00:50

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