



Left: ATHLETES FROM AROUND THE WORLD WORE THEIR SCARVES WITH PRIDE. Right: MUFLERS OF ALL STYLES ARE WELCOME.

Special Delivery

Put your hooks to work to stitch up some support for the Special Olympics World Winter Games By Daryl Brower

When the athletes participating in the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games walk into the Idaho Center in Nampa, Idaho on February 7, 2009, they'll share more than just a determination to demonstrate their athletic skills. They'll also show their connection to their communities by wearing blue and white scarves, hand-knit or crocheted by volunteers from around the country.



The Special Olympics provides year-round training and athletic competition in a variety of sports to children and adults with intellectual disabilities, helping them to develop physical fitness, experience courage and

share friendships with their fellow athletes. The Special Olympics World Winter Games Scarf Project, now in its second year, expands that sharing to the surrounding community. The program began when World Winter Games organizers decided to give handcrafted scarves to athletes to wear to the Games' opening ceremony. They asked local crafters to contribute—to their surprise, their Idaho headquarters was soon flooded with more than

1,000 handmade scarves. This year the World Winter Games aims to gift a scarf to each athlete, the delegates supporting them and various dignitaries who will be visiting the games—and they need your help to meet their mark. “Our goal is to see 5,000 scarves donated. It’s a big number, but I’m confident we can do it,” says Vicki Blizzard, media relations and promotions director for Coats and Clark, the sponsor of the project. “Knitters and crocheters are a dedicated and generous bunch.”

No specific pattern, skill or style is required to knit a Special Olympics World Winter Games scarf, and beginners, schools, scout troops and other youth groups are actively encouraged to participate. “Our only rule is that the scarf be knit or crocheted by hand using Red Heart Super Saver yarn in both delft blue and white, the official colors of the Games,” says Blizzard.

Last year’s scarves were as varied as the athletes, ranging from simple stripes to striking snowflake designs, while stitches ran the gamut from basic single crochet to complicated cables and openwork patterns. Personal notes from the volunteers to the athletes were attached to each scarf, which were handed out right before the opening ceremony.

David Gish, a Special Olympics Idaho athlete who received a muffler when he competed in the 2008 Special Olympics Invitational Winter Games in February, says his scarf is a symbolic memento from the event. “Getting the scarves was very special for the athletes because we knew someone spent their time to make them especially for us,” said Gish. “It is something I will have forever and I know



they will be just as special to the athletes next year at the World Winter Games.”

Blizzard is confident that this year’s donations will be equally inspiring. “It’s just such a feel-good project,” she says. “You get to do something you love to do, share your craft with someone who will truly appreciate it and show your support for a great program.” ■

get stitching!

Use our pattern on this page, choose one online (see below) or design your own. Finished scarves must arrive by January 15, 2009, and should be sent to:

Special Olympics Scarf Project
3150 West Main Street
Boise, ID 83702

For more information about the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games, visit 2009worldgames.org.

More free patterns and details about the Special Olympics World Winter Games Scarf Project can be found at coatsandclark.com and redheart.com.

Crochet Today's Special Scarf

By Faith Hale



SKILL LEVEL: beginner

finished measurements

Approx 5"/12.5cm wide x 60"/152.5cm long (including fringe)

what you'll need

YARN

RED HEART *Super Saver*, 7oz/198g skeins, each approx 364yd/333m (acrylic)

- 1 skein #885 Delft Blue (A)
- 1 skein #311 White (B)

CROCHET HOOK

- Size I/9 (5.5mm) crochet hook or any size to obtain correct gauge

NOTIONS

- Yarn needle

gauge

12 stitches and 7 rows = 4"/10cm over double crochet.

Remember to check gauge for best results!

SCARF

With A, chain 164.

Row 1 Double crochet in 3rd chain from hook beginning chain counts as first double crochet), double crochet in each remaining chain across—163 double crochet (including beginning chain). Fasten off A.

Row 2 Turn, join B by pulling up a loop in first stitch, chain 2 (counts as first double crochet here and throughout), double crochet in each stitch across. Fasten off B.

Row 3 Turn, join A by pulling up a loop in first stitch, chain 2, double crochet in each stitch across. Fasten off A.

Rows 4–9 Repeat Rows 2 and 3 three times.

finishing

Weave in all ends.

fringe

Cut 20 12"/30.5cm lengths of A and 16 12"/30.5cm lengths of B. For each fringe: Hold 2 strands together and fold in half. Insert hook in edge of scarf, draw fold through, draw strands through folded end and pull to tighten. Make and attach one A-colored fringe to the end of each B-colored row, and one B-colored fringe to the end of each A-colored row. Trim fringe as desired. ■



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