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#VAComGames

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The Games break records again in 2019

Virginia Amateur Sports, Liberty University and the City of Lynchburg see continued growth of Virginia Commonwealth Games

In 2019, Amateur athletes from across Virginia and the country descended on the campus of Liberty University and the City of Lynchburg for the 2019 State Games of America and the VA Commonwealth Games. The 2019 games set records for participation and for economic impact. 14,027 athletes participated in 50 sports, generating \$7 Million in economic impact to Virginia – more than \$6.5 Million in the Lynchburg area. Those numbers are up from 2018, when 11,767 athletes competed and the economic impact was \$3.9 Million statewide, and more than \$3 Million in the Lynchburg area.

“The 2019 State Games of America were a huge success; due to the hard work and support of our partners at Liberty University, the City of Lynchburg and our many sponsors and volunteers. This provided us the opportunity to shine in the national spotlight. We recorded our best year yet in our 30-year history,” said Dan Foutz, Virginia Amateur Sports President. “The Virginia Commonwealth Games at Liberty University will continue to grow in Lynchburg in 2020 and into the future. We look forward to continued success.”

Since the Games moved to Lynchburg in 2016, participation and economic impact have grown each year, 2016 brought 9,600 athletes and \$2.1 million to Virginia (\$1.5 million to Lynchburg). In 2017 those numbers were up to 11,074 in athletes and \$2.8 million to Virginia (\$2.6 million to Lynchburg). VAS is expecting participant and economic impact numbers to continue to follow the trends of growth.

“Hosting the 2019 State Games of America was an incredible opportunity to showcase the City of Lynchburg to athletes, families and spectators from around the country,” said City of Lynchburg Mayor Treney Tweedy. “Kudos to the City’s Economic Development, Tourism and Parks & Recreation staff for working with Virginia Amateur Sports, Liberty University and the host committee to prep facilities, recruit volunteers and roll out the red carpet to welcome these visitors. Our strong partnership with Virginia Amateur Sports and Liberty University to host the Games continues to benefit the City, our lodging and hospitality community and many local businesses. We look forward to continued growth.”

Planning for the 2020 Games is already underway, with registration for some sports open now. Not only will there be a couple of new sports in 2020, but the medals were redesigned as well, featuring our torch logo and raised details. Main Games weekend will be July 24-26, 2020. All Virginia residents of all ages and skill levels are welcome to participate and Bring Your Game.

Presented by Liberty University, Centra, ABC 13, Kroger, Construction Management Associates, Ford, and the City of Lynchburg.

For more information on the VA Commonwealth Games, visit: www.CommonwealthGames.org
For images to download, visit: www.CommonwealthGames.org/vasnews

Member of the National Congress of State Games—learn more at www.stategames.org

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About the Virginia Commonwealth Games at Liberty University: Modeled after the Olympics, the Virginia Commonwealth Games welcomes athletes regardless of age or skill level. The Games embody the values of participation, sportsmanship and healthy living amongst residents of Virginia and surrounding eligible states. The rights holder for the event is **Virginia Amateur Sports (VAS)**. VAS has been organizing the event for 30 years and it is truly a grassroots effort that relies on the dedication of thousands of volunteers and support from local sponsors and organizations across the Commonwealth. VAS is a member of the National Congress of State Games.

About the National Congress of State Games: The National Congress of State Games (NCSG) is a membership organization comprised of 34 Summer State Games and 9 Winter State Games organizations and a member of the United States Olympic Committee's Multi Sports Organizational Council. The mission of the NCSG is to support State Games member organizations in the promotion of health, fitness and character building through Olympic – style competitions and physical activities.

The NCSG is also the rights holder of the State Games of America, an Olympic-style event featuring competition between State Games medal winners (gold, silver, bronze) from across the nation.

