



Your **FREE** ticket to summer fun at the CSG Opening Ceremonies!

The stage is set for a magical celebration of sports in Nebraska, and you can join in the fun...for FREE!

It's the Cornhusker State Games Opening Ceremonies this Friday, July 16th at Seacrest Field in Lincoln! Gates open at 6 p.m. and the fun begins with the Alex Gordon Meet-And-Greet, featuring your chance to meet, and get a signature from the man whose storied 14-year Kansas City Royals Major League Baseball career began in Lincoln, Nebraska.

While you're there, you can also meet 2001 Heisman Trophy-winner Eric Crouch, 1985 Heisman Runner-up Chuck Long, 2021 National Gatorade Softball Player of the Year Jordyn Bahl and Miss Nebraska-USA Erika Etzelmiller and Miss Nebraska-America Morgan Holen. **Important Note:** Please see the Autograph Guidelines below, so we can ensure that everyone has an opportunity, and that we all stay safe and respectful.

FREE FOOD AND ICE CREAM – That's right! The first 2,000 in attendance can get an Arby's Roast Beef sandwich and a Hiland Dairy Ice Cream Treat. Aquafina bottled water will also be served (FREE) to keep everyone hydrated.

To enjoy the Meet-And-Greet, park in the East Seacrest Field Parking lot and enter through the main East entrance. Check the [site map](#) ahead of time or just follow the signs/volunteer directions once you get inside.

Following the Meet-And-Greet, athletes will assemble for the Parade of Athletes. Parents/Guardians and coaches are welcome and encouraged to march along. Just look for your sport sign along the warning track on Den Hartog baseball field. Additional guests, or those not participating in the Parade, are welcome to sit in the upper areas of the East stands or the West stands.

OPENING CEREMONIES LINEUP -- Once the athletes march in and get seated, we'll enjoy welcoming, from the sky, skydivers from the Lincoln Sport Parachute Club, including 30+-year CSG O.C. veteran Larry Bartlett, tethered to the American Flag as we join Lee Greenwood singing God Bless The U.S.A., kicking off our celebration of America.

As the National Guard Honor Guard presents the U.S. and Nebraska flags, we will pay tribute to healthcare workers from CHI Health and the Nebraska National Guard as they unfurl the giant American field flag. Once the flags are in place, the Big Red Alumni Pep Band will play the national anthem.

Following the anthem, the Oath of Athletes, led by Jordyn Bahl, will remind us of the State Games standards of sportsmanship, respect and friendly competition.

Then, several of our favorite mascots, including Runza Rex, Lil' Red, the Chick-fil-A Cow and our own Sporty the Torch will test their agility and speed in the CSG Mascot Race.

From mascots to furry friends, the show transitions to a demonstration by man's best friends. A collection of the region's best retriever dogs—and their handlers—will put their training and discipline on display in an amazing series of blind retrieves.

Then, the crowning moment takes place. 2020 Torchlighter Eric Crouch will pass the Torch to this year's honoree, Alex Gordon to officially ignite the 2021 Games in a dramatic lighting of the cauldron.

While spirits are high, we'll get the official "Let the Games Begin" from honorary chairman Frank Wilber, followed by an epic fireworks display.

Please **DO NOT** deprive yourself or your loved ones of this once-in-a-lifetime celebration of sports and Nebraska pride! It's fun and it's free, so make it part of your Cornhusker State Games experience!

IT'S ON TV AND FACEBOOK – We know that many of your friends and relatives around the state, country and world are not able to be there in person, so remember to tell them to tune in to [News Channel Nebraska](#) and the [NCN Facebook page](#) to enjoy the evening with us wherever they are.

NOTE: posting/sharing your experience throughout the evening is enthusiastically encouraged—please use #CSG2021 in your posts, so friends, family and your social network will wish they'd been with us in person.

IMPORTANT GUIDELINES for the Meet-And-Greet!!!

First, for everyone's safety, please do not initiate personal contact with our special guests, i.e. handshakes, hugs, etc...we are still mindful of health considerations, and unfortunately, the COVID-19 virus and variants are still in our midst.

Second, in order for all attendees to have an opportunity, all guests are allowed one signature, and to be considerate of your fellow-Nebraskans, please keep it short and sweet.

Third, allowable items for signing, include: A. Preferred—Free CSG Opening Ceremonies commemorative trading cards will be provided for autographs from Alex, Eric, Chuck and Jordyn. B. You may also have your shirt or cap signed. C. ONE photo or publication (example: Royals or Huskers Game program you've kept for just such an opportunity). D. a baseball/softball/football you bring/provide. E. Nothing Else--No other items will be allowed for signing in the Meet-And-Greet.