





# Atlanta 1996

Manufacturer

# **TECHNICAL DETAILS OF THE TORCH**

Description	On the wooden handle is engraved the list of Summer Games from 1896 to 1996, in reference to the centenary of the Olympic Games. The torch was inspired by simple ancient torches of bound reeds and the lines of classical Greek architecture. Its 22 aluminium "reeds" were representative of the total number of modern Olympic Games editions. The centre grip is made of Georgia pecan wood and there are two wide gold bands, one with the names of all Olympic Games host cities and, the other, with the emblem of the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games and the Quilt of Leaves motif.
Colour	Silver, gold, brown
Height	82 cm
Composition	Aluminium, brass, pecan wood
Fuel	Propylene. The combustion duration is 20 minutes.
Designer /	Peter Mastrogiannis, Malcolm Grear Designers

Did you know?	• The safety lamps measured 30.5 cm and had a burning capacity of 20 hours. They were fed by liquid paraffin.
	The wood that forms the central part of the torch was a donation from local

/ Georgia Institute of Technology

the torch was a donation from local farmers and symbolised the connection between heaven, Earth and the Olympic flame.

Find out more about Atlanta 1996 on olympic.org.





	THE RELAY: FACTS AND FIGURES
Start date	30 March 1996, Olympia (Greece)
End date	19 July 1996, Olympic Stadium, Atlanta (United States)
First torchbearer	Konstantinos "Kostas" Koukodimos, Olympic participant in athletics (1992, 1996, 2000).
Last torchbearer	Muhammad Ali, Olympic participant under the name of Cassius Clay in boxing (1960), gold medallist in Rome 1960.
Number of torchbearers	~800 in Greece, 12,467 in the United States
Recruitment of torchbearers	To be able to carry the torch, torchbearers had to be aged 12 or over on 17 April 1996. The torchbearer categories included community heroes, Olympic athletes, Olympic Movement members, and members of the <i>Share</i> <i>the Spirit</i> national and international selection programme run by Coca-Cola To be considered as a community hero individuals could either nominate themselves or be proposed by others. As part of the application process, an essay of 100 words or fewer describing the qualities of the nominated person was required. The Organising Committee's main criteria for defining a community hero included notable work as a volunteer, service as a community leader, role model, or mentor, acts of generosity or kindness and, extraordinary feats or accomplishments. Approximately 40,000 candidatures were received from which 5,500 community heroes were chosen.
Distance	2,141 km in Greece, 26,875 km in the United States
Countries visited	Greece, United States

# Route design and details

After the flame-lighting ceremony in Olympia and its relay across Greece, the flame arrived in Athens on 6 April. To mark the Centennial of the Games, a special celebration was organised in the Panathenaic Stadium. Representatives of the 17 cities that had hosted the Summer Games before Atlanta were present. Each of them received a safety lamp, whose flame was lit from a main torch. During the next 21 days, these flames were celebrated in each of the former host cities, while the main flame burned in Athens. These flames were extinguished when the main flame left Athens to fly to Los Angeles.

On 27 April, the flame arrived in Los Angeles. The relay on American soil began at the Memorial Coliseum, the Stadium that hosted the Los Angeles Games in 1932 and 1984. The first torchbearer was Olympian Rafer Johnson, the last torchbearer of the 1984 Games. The relay notably passed through St Louis, host city of the Olympic Games in 1904.

On 19 July, the flame reached the city of Atlanta. In order to honour the origins of the modern Olympic Games, Evander Holyfield, originally from Atlanta, shared the torch with Greek athlete Voula Patoulidou for part of the leg in the Stadium during the Opening Ceremony. Swimmer Janet Evans took over the relay, doing a lap of the track before heading for a long ramp located at the top of the extreme north of the Stadium. She passed the torch to Muhammad Ali, who had the honour of lighting the cauldron.





# DID YOU KNOW?

- To announce the holding of the Olympic Games, the flame was carried by relay along the real Pony Express route, which was recreated over 875 km between Julesburg, Colorado, and St Joseph, Missouri. Over 58 consecutive hours, riders travelling on horseback, just like the pioneers of this service, transported over 1,000 letters from the Organising Committee.
- On board the Space Shuttle Columbia, an unlit torch was taken into space for the very first time.
- The 6.4 metre-high cauldron formed the top of a metallic tower, which was over 35 metres high and linked to the Stadium by a 55-metre bridge. Originally, it was planned that the last torchbearer would cross the bridge and climb the tower to the cauldron to light it. However, in order to make the task simpler for Muhammad Ali and enhance visibility of this moment the flame instead travelled via a rope from the inside of the Stadium to the cauldron.

Last update: April 2016



# CENTENNIAL OLYMPIC GAMES TORCH DESIGN REFLECTS GAMES' ANCIENT GREEK ORIGIN

The torch that will carry the Olympic flame from Olympia to the Centennial Olympic Games was unveiled for the Hellenic Olympic Committee in Athens, Greece today by The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG). The presentation marks April 6 as the ninety-ninth anniversary of the first day of competition in the 1896 Olympic Games -- the first Modern Olympic Games.

Still a clarion call to the Olympic Games, the torch, the torch relay and the Olympic flame are considered the most vivid symbols of the Games' ideals of sport and peace.

"The Olympic flame will shine for more than 100 days in 1996, with more than 10,000 individuals in Greece and the United States raising this torch so the world can again witness the universal call to the Games -- a call for peace," said Billy Payne, ACOG president and CEO. "Its design honors the Games' origin and reminds us of the centuries-long legacy given the world by the people of Greece."

Designed by a Greek-American and engineered by the Georgia Institute of Technology with the Atlanta Gas Light Company, the Centennial Olympic Games Torch resembles the simplest of ancient torches: a gathering of reeds bound by twine.

In Athens, torch-designer Peter Mastrogiannis described his work as "an expression of love and admiration for the Games and a tribute to the sons and daughters of Greece." The 36-year-old graphic designer was born on the island of Samos and regularly returns to Greece. He is vice president of Rhode Island-based Malcolm Grear Designers, which also designed the pictograms and medals for the Centennial Olympic Games.

The torch features 22 "reeds"-- one for each Modern Olympic Games -- seemingly gathered in the center by Georgia hardwood. The wood, donated by Georgia's forestry community, serves as a handle for the 32"-high torch, the tallest for a Summer Olympic Games. The name of each Olympic Games host city is etched on a gold band near the base of the torch. A gold band above the handle features the Atlanta 1996 logo and Quilt of Leaves motif.

The design reflects the smooth, clean lines of columns that are frequent features of classical Greek architecture. Mastrogiannis says the center wood handle represents the balance of the natural world and symbolically links the flame -- representing the gods -- to earth, as the Truce of Gods was believed by ancient Greeks to be a communion of heaven and earth.

At its base, the torch measures 2.25" in diameter, with the reeds fluted at the top to a diameter of 3.5". There, a dual burner system -- a first -- will ensure the 12" flame resists wind and other natural elements. Each of the more than 10,000 torches is expected to burn for 30 to 40 minutes.

The lighting of the Olympic flame in Olympia next year will be followed by a flame relay through Greece orchestrated by the Hellenic Olympic Committee. The flame arrives in the United States April 27, 1996. Beginning in Los Angeles, the flame will <u>travel</u> 15,000 miles on its way to Atlanta's new Olympic Stadium. The United Way of America and ACOG are developing criteria to select most of the 10,000 individuals who will carry the torch on its journey; 1,000 Olympians will carry the torch in the US; 2,500 of the torchbearers will be selected by The Coca-Cola Company, which is presenting the 1996 Olympic Games Torch Relay in the United States.

In ancient Greece, the Olympic Games were called the Truce of Gods: a temporary union of heaven and earth when hostilities ceased so athletes could compete in the Olympic Games. In the weeks leading up to the Games, Spondophoroi -- heralds of peace -- ran through Greece proclaiming the beginning of the truce. German professor Carl Diem and Greek educator Jean Ketseas revived the custom for the 1936 Olympic Games, adding the symbolism of a torch and flame lit by the rays of the sun in Olympia to connect the Games' ancient heritage with the Modern Olympic Movement.

During the Centennial Olympic Games Opening Ceremony July 19, 1996, the flame will be transferred to the Olympic Cauldron, where it will burn until the Games end August 4.

The 1996 Olympic Games mark the one-hundredth anniversary of the Modern Olympic Games. More than 10,000 athletes from 196 countries are expected to take part, making the Centennial Games the largest in history.

# **HISTORIC ROLE OF TORCH RELAY:**

In ancient Greece, a truce was called so the Olympic Games could take place. Runners -- called "heralds of peace" -- traveled Greece proclaiming the beginning of the truce. In reviving the custom for the 1936 Olympic Games, organizers incorporated a torch lit in Olympia by the rays of the sun to connect the Games' ancient heritage with the Modern Olympic Movement.

# **CENTENNIAL GAMES TORCH FEATURES:**

Reminiscent of ancient torches -- a cluster of reeds bound by twine. The Centennial torch consists of 22 reeds -- one for each Olympic Games -- with a center "handle" of Georgia hardwood, making the torch easy to carry. The names of each host city are etched in a gold band near the torch base; another band above the wood shows the Atlanta Games logo and Quilt of Leaves.

# **DIMENSIONS:**

At 32" high, this is the tallest torch for a Summer Olympic Games. Its diameter is 2.25" at the bottom, 3.5" at the top. Weight is still to be determined, but expected to be under four pounds.

# **MATERIALS:**

Reeds are aluminum, hardwood is either pecan or hickory, two gold-plated brass bands.

# **DESIGNER:**

Greek-American Peter Mastrogiannis, who was born on Samos and visits relatives in Greece regularly. He is vice president of Rhode Island-based Malcolm Grear Designers, Inc., which also designed the pictograms and medals for the 1996 Olympic Games.

# **ENGINEERING:**

Georgia Institute of Technology with the Atlanta Gas Light Company.

# **FUEL SYSTEM:**

Dual burner system -- a first -- that will help the flame resist wind and rain. Small tank in base of torch for propane fuel. Flame will burn 30 - 40 minutes per torch.

#### WOOD:

Donated by Georgia's forestry community. The Centennial Olympic Games Torch is only the third in history to use wood.

# **NUMBER OF TORCHES:**

More than 10,000 will be produced. Manufacturer has not yet been selected. Final number of torches will incorporate those needed for relay in Greece.

# **1996 TORCH RELAY:**

- □ Begins in Olympia with traditional ceremony during which a parabolic mirror is used to light the torch with the rays of the sun.
- □ Relay through Greece follows, organized by the Hellenic Olympic Committee.
- □ A date has not yet been set for the torch lighting and relay through Greece.
- □ Arrives in Los Angeles April 27, 1996.
- □ For 84 days, 10,000 individuals will carry the torch on a 15,000-mile journey to Atlanta.
- □ Lights the Olympic Cauldron during the Opening Ceremony July 19.

# **SELECTION OF TORCHBEARERS:**

- $\Box$  A total of 10,000 individuals will carry the torch in the U.S.
- □ 6,500 to be selected using criteria developed by United Way of America and ACOG;
- $\Box$  1,000 Olympians;
- □ 2,500 individuals selected by The Coca-Cola Company, which is presenting the 1996 Olympic Games Torch Relay in the US.

# **US TORCH ROUTE:**

Will be announced on NBC Sports Sunday July 23, 1995 during "Atlanta 1996," fourth of 10 ACOG-produced half-hour programs about the Centennial Olympic Games. Program will air at 3:30 p.m. EDT. Torchbearer selection criteria will also be announced during this show.

*The 1996 Olympic Torch Relay is presented by <u>Coca-Cola</u>. <i>Its coverage on the Internet is provided by <u>IBM</u>.* 

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Olympic Factoid The number of meals estimated to be served at Games venues is 33 million from Eggs 3.6 million; Gallons of milk 100,000; Pounds of fruit 1.5 million; Hot dogs 1.2 million; Beef 750,000 pounds; Barbecue pork sandwiches 93,000

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# Presenter and Providers of the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay

The most enduring symbol of the Olympic Movement is the Olympic flame. On 27 April, the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay begins the largest relay in Olympic history. The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games, working in partnership with relay presenter <u>Coca-Cola</u>, will share the Olympic Games with more people than ever before, by bringing the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay to thousands of cities and towns across the nation. The Olympic Torch Relay relies on resources provided by Coca-Cola, as well as products and services provided by other organizations and corporations, community task forces and volunteers.

# Presenter of the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay in the United States

Coca-Cola, as presenter of the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay, has taken a lead role in bringing this Olympic experience to the United States. By committing personnel, financial resources and products, Coca-Cola and Coca-Cola Bottlers across the nation are working closely with ACOG to ensure the Olympic Torch Relay touches the lives of millions of Americans. The role of Coca-Cola in the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay includes:

- □ A grassroots torchbearer nomination program in which Coca-Cola asked Americans to choose Olympic torchbearers by nominating someone special in their lives to carry the Olympic flame.
- □ An international torchbearer selection program which gave Coca-Cola the opportunity to make the Torch Relay a truly global event by bringing up to 500 people from almost 70 countries to the United States to participate in the relay. This marks the first time torchbearers from outside the United States will participate in a Torch Relay on American soil.
- □ An escort runner selection program in which Coca-Cola allowed high schools across the country to choose a total of almost 2,000 high school seniors, students who are both scholars and athletes, to run alongside torchbearers, protecting the Olympic flame and supporting the torchbearers.
- Creating mini-celebrations along the relay route so more people than ever before can experience the Olympic flame.

The Coca-Cola Company, headquartered in Atlanta, has been a sponsor of the Olympic Games since 1928. Coca-Cola has played a role in Olympic Torch Relays for the past two Olympiads through its "International Olympic Torchbearer Program," which gave torchbearers from countries outside the host nation the opportunity to help carry the flame to the Olympic Games.

# Providers to the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay in the United States

BellSouth Corporation and its business units BellSouth Mobility, BellSouth Cellular and MobileComm provide the cellular phone and paging service that enables the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay to communicate vital logistical information along the 15,000 mile route. BellSouth is located in Atlanta.

- □ <u>BMW</u> is the official provider of mobility for the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay. BMW automobiles, motorcycles and bicycles will be used in the Torch Relay caravan. The majority of BMW vehicles for the Torch Relay are proudly manufactured in Spartanburg, S.C.
- <u>Delta Air Lines</u> is the official provider of airline transportation for the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay.
  Delta will dedicate a charter flight to transport the Olympic flame from Greece to the United States, and will provide nationwide air transportation for the Torch Relay crew. Delta is headquartered in Atlanta.
- Holiday Inn Worldwide furnishes hotel accommodations across the country for the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay caravan crew. Holiday Inn also provides logistical support, such as meeting rooms and office space to the Olympic Torch Relay. Holiday Inn Worldwide is headquartered in Atlanta.
- IBM provides computer technology that makes up the information systems infrastructure of the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay. IBM supplies 755C Thinkpad notebooks and IBM Personal Computers. IBM is headquartered in Armonk, New York.
- □ <u>Motorola Inc.</u> equips the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay crew with cellular phones, pagers, radios and accessories, and provides technical support for the vital wireless communications link during the relay. Motorola Inc. is located in Schaumburg, Ill.
- □ <u>Champion</u> outfits the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay torchbearers and escort runners; Hanes outfits the crew and community volunteers. Both are Sara Lee companies located in Winston-Salem, N.C.
- <u>Texaco USA</u> is the official provider of gasoline and motor oil to the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay. Texaco Refining and Marketing Inc./Star Enterprise will provide gasoline while Texaco Lubricants Company provides motor oil to the relay. Texaco is headquartered in Harrison, NY.
- The United Way is the provider of community support and volunteer services for the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay. The United Way assists the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay in planning the torchbearer selection process and recruits volunteers for community celebrations for the arrival of the torch. The United Way of America is headquartered in Alexandria, Va.

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Olympic Factoid The number of parking cones that will be positioned to help direct traffic at parking lots surrounding venues is 20,000

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# IUE'ERS IN OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY ERIE LOCAL 621 ASSEMBLES, TESTS TORCHES THAT CARRY OLYMPIC FLAME

**THE OLYMPIC TORCH** was assembled by IUE members and two of them will have the honor of carrying it as it continues the long trek to Atlanta for the 1996 Games.

Members of Local 621 in Erie, Pa., assembled and quality tested 17,000 beautifully designed Olympic torches for the relay across the United States. When the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) gave approval for two of the assemblers to take part in the relay, the members of the assembly team at American Meter selected Mike Machinski and Pat Newby.

They join 10,000 other runners in a 15,000-mile relay of the flame in a serpentine course across the country that began in Los Angeles on April 27 and arrives in Atlanta for the opening of the Games on July 19. Mike and Pat are scheduled to carry the torch when it passes through Erie at 6:15 a.m. on June 11.

Local 621 is an IUE Charter Local dating back to the origins of IUE in November 1949. Local President Dave Grochulski says the Local represents 130 members at American Meter where they machine, assemble and test gas flow regulators and meters.

The 32-inch torch is the longest ever used in the Games. It weighs 3.5 pounds. Inspired by a simple torch of bound reeds, the 1996 Olympic torch features 22 aluminum reeds, one for each of the Olympic Games in the modern era, two gold bands and in the middle a finely turned wooden handle of Georgia pecan. Each holds enough propane gas to burn about 40 minutes.



00 The 1996 Olympic Torch Relay 00

The torch relay has been reported extensively by the news media each night as it makes its way across the U.S

The tradition of the Olym pic flame in the modern era started when an Olympic flame was lit at the entrance to the stadium of the 1928 Amsterdam Games. The torce relay began in 1936. In case of a mishap, the torch can b relighted from the "sacred flame" which rides in a van that accompanies the torch bearers.

<sup>12</sup> IUE NEWS May-June 1996



elta's newest MD-11, N812DE (msn 48600), flew the Olympic Torch as Flight 9696 from Athens, Greece, to Los Angeles, California, on April 27, 1996. This 6,200-mile flight represents the longest distance the flame has ever been transported by air. With only 74 passengers on board, Ship 812 was able to make the trip without the use of its 3,000gallon auxiliary fuel tank.

In order to safely transport the flame, a specially engineered wall bracket was designed by Delta's engineering staff. Consisting of aluminum right-angle brackets with a specially coated U-bolt attachment device — to avoid scratching the gold-plated safety lantern, the torch was carried on the bulkhead behind the main entrance door. The flame was "kindled by the sun's rays" on March 30, 1996, amid the ancient ruins of Olympia by Olympic High Priestess Maria Pambouki. This would be the sixth time an Olympic flame had journeyed by air.

The flame itself was carried within a completely self-contained leak-proof safe-

ty lantern with a wind-proof chamber sheltered by tempered safety glass. The principle involved is much like a camping lantern, except that the Georgia Institute of Technology added design considerations to accommodate the "G" forces encountered in flight. The lantern carried approximately 4.5 fluid ounces of petroleum naphtha, equal to more than 20 hours of fuel. It weighed 17.5 pounds, and was 15 inches tall and 4.5 inches in diameter.

On April 26, Hellenic Olympic Committee President Antonius Tzikas presented the flame to Atlanta Committee of Olympic Games President William P. Payne. That evening, ceremonies were conducted in the Panathenaic Stadium in Athens, original site of the first Olympic Games that originated 100 years ago.

Early the next morning, Payne and Delta Airlines President and CEO Ron Allen led a procession

across the Athens Airport tarmac. They walked among men and women dressed





William P. Payne, president and CEO of the Atlanta Committee of the Olympic Games, deplanes Centennial Spirit with the Olympic flame in the safety lantern.

(Robert F. Reese)

in traditional Olympic garb to board the MD-11 *Centennial Spirit* bearing the torch.

Flight 9696 departed Hellenikon International Airport at 3:45 a.m. for Los Angeles, flying over Italy, Germany, the United Kingdom, the North Atlantic, Greenland, Labrador, and Northern Canada. It entered the United States while passing above Montana and continued over Utah, Nevada and California, to Los Angeles International.

During the flight, passengers

posed for photographs and toasted the occasion with Cristal champagne. A snack and two meals were served.

Centennial Spirit arrived at 7:50 a.m., and taxied to a special ceremony area. As Atlanta Committee of Olympic Games President Payne carried the torch down the steps, the crowd cheered and a band played the "Olympic Hymn." Deplaning passengers were greeted by Los Angeles City Council President John Ferraro. Dr. LeRoy Walker, United States Olympic Committee, addressed the crowd. At the conclusion of his remarks, the passengers departed for a holding area as the Olympic fanfare music resumed. In the holding area, United States Customs officials examined the safety lantern. Payne then departed with the lantern containing the Olympic flame.

#### New Flight Record

Total time for the flight was 14 hours 5 minutes of which 13 hours and 44 minutes were spent in the air. Centennial Spirit traveled 6,206 nautical miles at a maximum cruising speed of 484 knots. Takeoff weight was 579,985 pounds, including 256,000 pounds (38,380 gallons) of fuel; 225,000 pounds was consumed during the flight. The crew consisted of Captains David Boaz, Roy W. Tucker, Walter Massey and First Officer Stan King, representing each pilot domicile.



Dr. LeRoy Walker, United States Olympic Committee, addresses the crowd upon arrival at Los Angeles International. Others gathered on the podium include Ronald W. Allen, president and CEO of Delta Air Lines; Thomas Niles, U.S. Ambassador to Greece; Olympic High Priestess Maria Pamboukt: Dimitri Avramopoulos, mayor of Athens; John Ferraro, president, Los Angeles City Council: and Atlanta Committee of Olympic Games President William P. Payne. (Robert F. Reese)



Bulkhead mount for the safety lantern. (Robert F. Reese)

The flight attendants were Spencer Swanson, Constance Caravageli, Chrys Siatras, Sophia Georgiadis, Vivian Geter, Katy Hu, Minita Mada, Roch Taddonio, Diane Stenzel, Jackie Nicolls, and Tom Highlands. Two of the cabin team were fluent in Greek.

Captain Boaz filed the record flight with Societe Aeronautique, the aeronautical equivalent of the *Guinness Book of World Records*, to mark this historic occasion. Among the passengers were Dr. LeRoy Walker, United States Olympic Committee; Thomas Niles, U.S. Ambassador to Greece; Athens Mayor Dimitri Avramopoulos; and Olympic High Priestess Maria Pambouki.

The Olympic Games begin July 19 in Atlanta, Georgia.

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