



## What You Need to Know About Volunteering with Special Olympics

### **About Special Olympics Indiana**

Special Olympics Indiana provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in over 20 Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, reaching more than 11,000 athletes across Indiana. The organization receives no federal or state funds, relying entirely on corporate, civic and individual donations. Every year, Special Olympics Indiana must raise \$2.5 million in order to provide high-quality, successful state-level competitions for our athletes.

### **About volunteering for Special Olympics**

Worldwide, volunteers enable Special Olympics to offer sports training and competition programs to 4 million individuals with intellectual disabilities. The Special Olympics organization could not have been created and would not exist today without the time, talent, treasure, energy, dedication, and commitment of its more than 500,000 Special Olympics volunteers. In Indiana, there are more than 8,000 volunteers.

### **Volunteering for Special Olympics Indiana**

Volunteering for Special Olympics Indiana is a great way to help our organization! When you volunteer for a Special Olympics Indiana event, you play a significant part in providing our athletes continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, and experience joy. When you volunteer, you help provide experiences that allow our athletes to participate in the sharing of gifts, skills, and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community. When you volunteer, you join a multitude of others just like you who give their time, talent, energy, and treasure to help Hoosier children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

Special Olympics Indiana conducts three special events – the Polar Plunge, the FedEx Plane Pull® Challenge, and the Charity Golf Classic. Many of our events are one-day events, so long, weekly hours of commitment aren't required!

### **Benefits of Volunteering for Special Events with Special Olympics Indiana**

1. Help Special Olympics Indiana provide quality sports and program events for the athletes, their families, coaches, and the community
2. Work side-by-side with other people who share your passion and interest in Special Olympics and volunteering
3. Become more involved in your community and make new friends
4. Discover new talents and passions about yourself
5. Discover a renewed appreciation for your own abilities
6. **Learn how extraordinary Special Olympics Indiana athletes really are!**

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Visit [www.soindiana.org](http://www.soindiana.org) for more information.



### **Volunteer Requirements**

1. Volunteers must complete all forms as required by Special Olympics Indiana (application, parent/guardian permission if necessary).
2. Special Event volunteers may need to attend a brief orientation for his/her chosen event.
3. Volunteers must be able to commit to chosen/assigned volunteer assignments.
4. Volunteers must be 18 or older to volunteer without parent/guardian permission.
5. Volunteers must show photo identification when they register to volunteer the day of the event. We cannot allow an individual to volunteer without photo identification.

### **Volunteer Rights**

As a volunteer, it is your right:

1. To be treated with dignity and respect.
2. To be given jobs and assignments which are suitable for your talents, education, and experiences and to be given training, if needed.
3. To have sound guidance and direction.
4. To be listened to if you have problems or concerns regarding your volunteer work with Special Olympics Indiana.

### **Volunteer Responsibilities**

As a volunteer, it is your responsibility:

1. To carry out every assignment to the best of your ability.
2. To be willing to use your talents, education, and experiences to do a good job.
3. To learn about the organization you have volunteered to assist.
4. To accept guidance and direction in a polite manner.
5. To report on time at the appointed location or to call the organization if you are going to be late or unable to volunteer.
6. To report any problems or concerns you have to your Volunteer Supervisor or the Volunteer Coordinator.

**Above all, to have fun and enjoy your experience with Special Olympic Indiana!**

### **Without Volunteers**

Special Olympics Indiana could not and would not be what it is today. Without you, more than 11,000 Special Olympics Indiana athletes would not have the opportunity to train and compete year-round in over 20 sports throughout the state. Without you, Special Olympics Indiana could not raise the funds necessary to provide quality services and experience to our Hoosier athletes. Without you, Special Olympics Indiana just wouldn't be the same.

**Anyone can be a Special Olympics volunteer!**

If you'd like to get involved, contact Rachel Robertson,  
rrobertson@soindiana.org or (317) 328-2020 or (800) 742-0612 ext. 234.

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