



## Volunteers Fact Sheet

Volunteers enable Special Olympics to offer sports training and competition programs to more than 4 million children and adults with intellectual disabilities worldwide. Special Olympics would not exist today — and could not have been created — without the time, energy, dedication and commitment of the hundreds of thousands of Special Olympics volunteers around the globe.

Volunteers increase integration and socialization opportunities for Special Olympics athletes. The dedication of Special Olympics volunteers provides mainstreaming experiences for athletes with intellectual disabilities.

### How can I volunteer?

#### Sports Training

- Serve as certified Special Olympics coaches.
- Help run Special Olympics sports camps.
- Organize, coach or play on Special Olympics Unified Sports® teams, which bring together athletes with and without intellectual disabilities to train and compete on the same sports teams.
- Use specific sports expertise to help set up sports clinics or Special Olympics training schools.
- Train individuals with more profound disabilities through the Motor Activities Training Program.
- Serve on a sports management team.

#### Competitions

- Serve as scorers or timers at competitions or assist with registration.
- Present awards to athletes.
- Serve as games director, certified official, or venue manager at Special Olympics competitions.
- Organize events for athletes, such as festive Olympic Town at the annual Special Olympics Indiana Summer Games.
- Conduct clinics or demonstrations in a new sport.
- Serve as escorts and cheerleaders at Special Olympics competitions.

#### Schools

- Include Special Olympics sports training programs in an existing adapted physical education curriculum.
- Utilize the Special Olympics Sports Skills Program Guide in an after-school sports program.
- Start Unified Sports teams.
- Open school facilities to Special Olympics events.
- Provide support at Special Olympics events.
- Get involved through the Best Buddies® program.
- Organize members of school sports teams to become certified Special Olympics coaches or officials.
- Conduct Special Olympics sports competitions or demonstrations during regular sports events.

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



### **Fundraising**

- Support Special Olympics Indiana and the Indiana Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics through corporate sponsorship.
- Raise money to participate in the Polar Plunge and FedEx® Plane Pull to benefit Special Olympics Indiana.
- Participate in or contribute to the Charity Golf Classic to benefit Special Olympics Indiana.
- Make financial or in-kind donations as individuals or through a business.
- Volunteer or participate in one of the Color Me Rad® events.
- Conduct fundraising campaigns in schools or through a civic group, church, or other organization.
- Name Special Olympics Indiana as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy, will, or employee payroll deduction.

### **Professional**

- Provide medical support including free physicals and X-rays or provide pro bono legal or accounting services.
- Contribute specific skills to help Special Olympics Indiana.
- Sponsor Special Olympics teams.
- Make donations of goods, services, or vital office supplies to local Special Olympics Programs.

### **Public Awareness**

- Write articles about Special Olympics athletes, families and coaches, or join speakers bureaus.
- Volunteer copywriting, photography or public relations skills to local, state or national Special Olympics Programs.
- Help staff the media center or serve as a press escort at a Special Olympics event.
- Train Special Olympics athletes to give presentations through the Global Messenger program.

### **Administration**

- Serve on the State Program's Board of Directors or Area/County Program committees.
- Help special education teachers or Special Olympics coaches prepare registration and medical forms.
- Contribute typing, filing and computer skills as volunteers in Special Olympics offices.
- Distribute materials for a Special Olympics event.
- Help Special Olympics Indiana with mass-mailing projects.

### **Civic Groups**

- Provide support for Special Olympics Programs.
- Sponsor local Special Olympics teams.
- Organize Unified Sports teams.
- Encourage group members to volunteer their professional services to Special Olympics Programs.

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

If you'd like to get involved, call (800) 742-0612 or visit [www.soindiana.org](http://www.soindiana.org).

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