SOSO Award Criteria

The Spirit of Special Olympics (SOSO) Awards Program is our annual recognition of athletes, coaches, families, volunteers, and Law Enforcement Torch Run officers who have demonstrated outstanding support of Special Olympics Indiana. Each registered Program is encouraged to nominate those individuals who have exemplified the Special Olympics spirit of skill, courage, sharing and joy, and demonstrated an overall commitment to the Program.

GENERAL RULES
1. Nominations are due in the State Office by May 11, 2020 and should be based on achievements over the past year.
2. Nominations from an Area Program must be signed by the Area Director.
3. Nominations from a County Program must be signed by the County Coordinator.
4. All nominees must be in good standing with Special Olympics and meet the requirements for the respective category as outlined.
5. Areas will select a winner in each category. Members of the Special Olympics Indiana Board of Directors will review the nomination forms of the Area winners and select the State award winners.
6. A person may not receive the State award more than once in the same category, but may receive the Area award multiple times.
7. 2018 nominees who did NOT win an Area award will automatically be placed in the selection “pool” again for 2019 awards. Areas and Counties may still nominate new candidates.

Criteria for the ATHLETE Award
1. Requirement - Must be a registered Class A Volunteer.
2. What Special Olympics coach certifications has the nominee obtained?
3. How many years has the coach been involved in Special Olympics Indiana?
4. If the coach currently has an athlete in his/her family, in what sports is the athlete involved?
5. If the coach does not have or no longer has an athlete in his/her family involved, what motivates him/her to continue to coach athletes?
6. Describe the coach’s abilities to impact the training of athletes.

Criteria for the FAMILY Award
1. Requirement - Must have an athlete in the family.
2. Describe to what extent all family members (beyond the parents) are involved with the athlete.
3. Describe the depth of the family’s participation in a single sport or the number of sports in which the family trains athletes to compete.
4. How many years has the family been involved in Special Olympics Indiana activities and sports?
5. Has the family initiated a new program or refined an existing activity? If so, please describe.
6. Describe the impact of the family’s involvement with athletes.
7. Describe the impact and support to other parents or groups in their Area.

Criteria for the LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN OFFICER Award
1. Requirement - Must be a law enforcement officer or a civilian associated with a law enforcement agency.
2. The nominee’s involvement must demonstrate a substantial contribution to the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics.
3. Describe the officer’s impact on Special Olympics Indiana.
4. How many years has the officer been actively involved with Special Olympics Indiana?
5. What is the average number of hours per week the officer spends with Special Olympics Indiana activities or special events?
6. Describe the officer’s outreach to other officers and impact on the awareness of Special Olympics Indiana in the community.

Criteria for the VOLUNTEER Award
1. Requirement - Must be a registered Class A Volunteer.
2. Describe the volunteer’s role in the Area or County Special Olympics Indiana Program.
3. How many years has the volunteer been actively involved with Special Olympics Indiana?
4. What is the average number of hours per week the volunteer spends with Special Olympics Indiana activities or games?
5. Describe the type and extent of the volunteer’s involvement, for example, as a Unified Sports® partner, chairperson of an event, etc.?
6. Describe the volunteer’s outreach to other volunteers and impact on the awareness of Special Olympics Indiana in the community.

Nominations are due in the State Office by May 11, 2020.
Spirit of Special Olympics Award Winners

Law Enforcement Torch Run Officer Award

2019 Assistant Police Chief
Chuck Garber
Valparaiso University PD
2018 Sheriff Michael Nielsen
Boone County Sheriff’s Office
2017 Joshua Chapman
Zionsville Police Department
2016 Michael Mack
Indianapolis Metro Police Department
2015 Jacquelyn Smith
Indiana State University PD
2014 Tommy Walker
Indiana State Police
2013 Kevin Jackson,
New Castle Correctional Facility
2012 Lt. Bruce Barnes,
Noblesville Police Department
2011 Chief William Mercier,
Indiana State University PD
2010 Tim White,
Johnson County Sheriff’s Department
2009 Mark Stahl,
Indianapolis Metro Police Department
2008 Lieutenant Mike Beck,
Indiana Law Enforcement Academy Captain Jim Reno,
Indianapolis Metro Police Department

Michael Furnish Athlete Award

2019 Kim Szeliński
Area 1
2018 Katie Baungartle
Area 2
2017 Chris Perdue
Area 9
2016 Philip Baker
Area 8
2015 Alise Hazelett
Area 3
2014 Andrew Peterson
Area 8
2013 Melony Salla
Area 4
2012 Wes Hartwell
Area 4
2011 Kevin Callaghan
Area 5
2010 Adam Sandifer
Area 2
2009 Dustin Peterson
Area 4
2008 Charles Kuester
Area 10
2007 Katie Crawford
Area 8
2006 Andrea Boling
Area 11
2005 Stacey Bartter
Area 11
2004 Sam McNew
Area 8
2003 Anthony Ingram
Area 4
2002 John Evans
Area 8
2001 Ashley Baker
Area 8
2000 Brent Bowgren
Area 1
1999 Shane McPherson
Area 8

Dennis Schmidt Impact Award

2019 Dr. Tom Songster
1993 Brian Click
1997 Mike & Lyn Doyle
2016 AMVETS of Indiana
2015 Dr. Vincent Stilger
2013 Larkin “Buzz” Laid
2012 Knights of Columbus
2011 Chuck & Nikki Brueggerman
2010 Rob Hillman
2009 Bill Benner
2007 Lorrie Woycieck
2006 Sally Hayden & Paul Reis
2005 John Lentz & Robert Toller
2004 Phil Bousnall & Eric Garrett

Volunteer Award

2019 Lynne Noble
Area 4
2018 Steve Bingelli, Sr.
Area 2
2017 Cody Harris
Area 6
2016 Ellen Norfey
Area 2
2015 Rita Abell
Area 8
2014 Tim Kramer
Area 10
2013 Ty Faust
Area 6
2012 Paul Boling
Area 10
2011 Grace Schoonveld
Area 8
2010 Betty Stepek
Area 10
2009 Kathy Courtar
Area 5
2008 Becky Schanding
Area 2
2007 Connie King
Area 10
2006 Cinda Milan
Area 5
2004 Mary Jo Martin
Area 1
2003 Dave King
Area 11
2002 Barb Cox
Area 6
2001 Lyn Doyle
Area 4

Coach Award

2019 Donna Hazelett
Area 3
2018 Craig Peterson
Area 8
2017 Juanita Garten
Area 4
2016 Heidi Bowman
Area 6
2015 Jackie Maier
Area 10
2014 Dave Black
Area 4
2013 Ron McGovern
Area 7
2012 Darlene Dietrich
Area 6
2011 Angie Mackenzie
Area 1
2010 Ellen Norfrey
Area 2
2009 Terri Hendle
Area 1
2008 Herman Atwood
Area 8
2007 Tracy Aubrey
Area 8
2006 Jim Philhower
Area 8
2005 Judy Holmer
Area 4
2004 Pat Boardman
Area 4
2003 Keith Shelton
Area 11
2002 Shari Rombold
Area 5
2001 Gary Beeker
Area 4
2000 Kitzi Chotlos
Area 8
1999 Terri Kriston
Area 4
1998 Mike Doyle
Area 4
1997 Monna Vantskyd
Area 6
1996 Nancy Shelton
Area 11
1995 Cathy Bates
Area 11
1994 Elizabeth Schlatterer
Area 10
1993 Dave Markley
Area 3
1992 John Jenkins
Area 12
1991 Arlene Gay
Area 9
1990 Barb Wilson
Area 9
2018 The Foster Family
Area 8
2017 The Hanna Family
Area 8
2016 The Hoffe Family
Area 8
2015 The Knife Family
Area 8
2014 The Bingelli Family
Area 2
2013 The Parks-Oldham Family
Area 2
2012 The Hemphill Family
Area 8
2011 The Bock Family
Area 10
2010 The Bowling Family
Area 2
2009 The Lanpher Family
Area 8
2008 The Livesay Family
Area 4
2007 The Sutherlin Family
Area 4
2006 The McGovern Family
Area 10
2005 The Kedrowitz Family
Area 10
2004 The Crawford Family
Area 8
2003 The King Family
Area 6
2002 The Caufon Family
Area 8
2001 The Bell Family
Area 5
2000 The Neff Family
Area 4
1999 The McNew Family
Area 8
1998 The Callaghan Family
Area 5
1997 The Galen Miller Family
Area 9
1996 The Vasquez Family
Area 1
1995 The Flatt Family
Area 2
1994 The Karrus Family
Area 1
1993 The Riser Family
Area 5
1992 The Boardman Family
Area 4
1991 The Gilbert Family
Area 4
1990 The Brothers Family
Area 11
1989 The Lamb Family
Area 8
1988 Harvey Spitznagel
Area 12
1987 Pauline Hines
Area 11
1986 Darrell Nifong
Area 2
1985 Jacque Wallsen
Area 1
1984 Diane Deel
Area 4
1983 Edwin Hambly
Area 11