

# 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 10, 2021** and should be based on achievements over the past year.
2. Programs may only submit one (1) nomination per category.
3. Nominations from an Area Program must be signed by the Area Director.
4. Nominations from a County Program must be signed by the County Coordinator.
5. All nominees must be in good standing with Special Olympics and meet the requirements for the respective category as outlined.
6. 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.
7. A person may not receive the State award more than once in the same category, but may receive the Area award multiple times.
8. All 2020 nominees who did NOT win an Area award will automatically be placed in the selection "pool" again for 2021 awards.

## Criteria for the ATHLETE Award

1. May be given to an individual of any ability level.
2. Describe the depth of the athlete's participation in a single sport or the number of sports in which the athlete trains and competes.
3. What is the average amount of time the athlete spends per week in training?
4. Describe the athlete's general characteristics that may demonstrate their leadership role among fellow athletes.
5. What are the levels of participation (personal achievements or best results) that the athlete has achieved at local, state, or international activities and games?
6. What other roles or responsibilities has the athlete assumed within Special Olympics such as, but not limited to, Athlete Leadership, coaching, fundraising, council meetings, etc.?
7. What other responsibilities does the athlete have at home or in the community (i.e. church group participation, scouts, etc.)?

## Criteria for the COACH 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 their family involved, what motivates them 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.

# SPIRIT OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS AWARD WINNERS

## Law Enforcement Torch Run Officer Award



**Tony Rivera**  
Assistant Chief,  
Butler University PD  
- 2020 -

Successor  
**Chuck Garber**  
Assistant Police Chief,  
Valparaiso University PD

## Michael Furnish Athlete Award



**Liz Strong**  
Area 8  
- 2020 -

Successor  
**Kim Szelinski**  
Area 1

## Dennis Schmidt Impact Award



**Dr. Mary Ciccarelli**  
Healthy Athletes  
- 2020 -

Successor  
**Dr. Tom Songster**  
Special Olympics Indiana  
Co-Founder

## Coach Award



**Rob Allen**  
Area 3  
- 2020 -

Successor  
**Donna Hazelett**  
Area 3

## Family Award



**Hunnicutt Family**  
Area 2  
- 2020 -

Successor  
**The Gillihan Family**  
Area 8

## Volunteer Award



**Bobbie Binggeli**  
Area 2  
- 2020 -

Successor  
**Lynne Noble**  
Area 4