

SOSO AWARD CRITERIA

The Spirit of Special Olympics (SOSO) awards program recognizes 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 individuals from the following categories 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 15**, and should be based on achievements over the past year.
2. Nominations from an Area Program must be signed by the Area Director and nominations from a County Program must be signed by the County Coordinator and include a photo.
3. All nominees must be in good standing with Special Olympics and meet the category requirements as outlined.
4. With the exception of the Family Award, each person nominated must have their own nomination form filled out to be considered.
5. Areas will select one 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 only receive the State award once in the same category but may receive the Area award multiple times.
7. All 2024 Area winners must be notified by **July 29** by the Area Program. The State Office will be announcing area award winners by the week of **August 5**.

CRITERIA FOR THE ATHLETE AWARD

1. May be given to an individual of any ability level.
2. Describe the athlete's participation in a single sport or the number of sports in which the athlete trains and competes.
3. How much time, on average, does the athlete spend per week in training?
4. Describe any characteristics that demonstrate the athlete's 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 world activities and games?
6. What other roles or responsibilities has the athlete assumed within Special Olympics, such as 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, 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 their family, in what sports is the athlete involved?
5. If the coach does not have 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 family's participation in a sport or multiple 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 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. How much time, on average, does the volunteer spend per week 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 SOIN in the community.