



Dear New Volunteer,

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with Special Olympics New York, Long Island region. There are a great number of volunteering opportunities in our area! We ask that all of our volunteers are **at least 13 years old**, and volunteers age 13-15 must be accompanied by an adult.

Attached is our Volunteer Information Package which includes some information about Special Olympics as well as ways you can get involved. Please return the volunteer interest form at your convenience, via email, mail, or fax. If you are interested in becoming a Class A volunteer or a coach, please contact me so that we may begin the process.

Please call me at 212-661-4327, or email me at tflynn@nyso.org with any questions or concerns.

We look forward to having you join our team. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tim Flynn
Senior Director of Program

Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor, State of New York
Honorary Chairman

Patricia Martinelli
Chair

Stacey B. Hengsterman
President & CEO

Dorothy Buehring Phillips
(1910 - 1994) Founder



WHO:

Special Olympics New York provides athletic training and competition to 71,889 athletes and unified partners; 68,547 (2016 census) are individuals with intellectual disabilities.

WHAT:

Through sports training and competition, Special Olympics New York offers continuing opportunities for our athletes to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience the joy of achievement, and make new friends.

WHERE:

Athletes train and compete in nine regions across New York State. This is accomplished with a network of over 37,318 dedicated volunteers, including 4,767 certified coaches.

WHEN:

Special Olympics New York offers a statewide, three-season program that provides 5,478 competitive opportunities and experiences annually.

HOW:

Special Olympics New York achieves its goals through quality sports training in 22 Olympic-style sports. Athletes can advance from local events to regional, state, national, and even international competitions.



HISTORY:

Our founder, Dorothy Buehring Phillips, established the Special Olympics New York program in 1969. That same year, New York sent a delegation of athletes and coaches to the Northeast Regional Special Olympics competition in Boston, Massachusetts. Special Olympics New York was fully incorporated in 1970 and Phillips was appointed the first State Director. In June, 1970, the first State Summer Games were held in Rochester. Today, New York is the largest Special Olympics program in North America, with its headquarters in Schenectady and regional offices throughout the state.

FUNDING SOURCES:

Special Olympics New York is a privately funded not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization that raises its operating budget mainly through the support and generosity of individuals, corporations and foundations. Special Olympics New York does not charge its athletes or their families to participate.

If you are interested in enrolling someone in Special Olympics or finding out more about us, please contact Tim Flynn at: 212-661-4327 or at tflynn@nyso.org



SEASONAL SPORTS OVERVIEW

SUMMER SPORTS

Basketball Team & Skills	Usually start training in March
Volleyball Team & Skills	
Aquatics *	Sectional Games – End of April
Athletics (Track & Field)	
Tennis	Spring Games in May
Powerlifting *	
Bowling	State Summer Games in June
Gymnastics *	

FALL SPORTS

Soccer (Football) Team & Skills	Usually start training end of July or 1 st week in August
Softball Team & Skills	
Golf	Local and Regional Competition – Mid-September and Early October
Bocce	
Equestrian *	
Cross Country Running	

WINTER SPORTS

Floor Hockey Team & Skills	Usually start training late November/early December
Speed Skating	
Figure Skating	
Nordic Skiing (Cross Country)	Sectional Games – Mid-January
Alpine Skiing (Downhill) *	
Snowshoeing (new)	State Games – 2 nd or 3 rd week in February

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- A sport “season” lasts approximately three months.
 - Athletes usually train/practice one day or evening a week during this season.
 - Athletes need at least eight training sessions to be eligible to compete at a competition.
 - All athletes require Medicals and Consents before training begins. Medical forms need to be updated every three years. Consent forms are signed once and then again when the athlete turns 18.
 - Coaches need to be willing to attend the 8 practices (minimum) and attend the two or three competitions associated with that sport.

* Need specialized training and have extensive experience in this specific sport to become a certified coach.



Volunteer Opportunities

All volunteers must be at least 13. Volunteers aged 13-15 must be accompanied by an adult

Volunteer Categories

Class A: Volunteers are persons with a high level of responsibility or authority with Special Olympics New York. Examples are: Coaches, Event Directors and Chaperones.

Class B: Volunteers are those who work at a specific event but do not have responsibility for that event or direct responsibility for athletes. Examples are: Timers, Scorekeepers, Officials, and Food Service Workers.

Be an Event Volunteer

Help with registration and check-in. Organize and run an Olympic Village Booth or help run an event.

Behind the Scenes

Clerical support is always needed in our office. This includes helping with mailings, filing, copying and other office work necessary to run our training programs and events.

Becoming a Coach

Volunteers interested in becoming a certified coach must be at least 16 years old. Although prior experience coaching or playing the sport is helpful, it is not necessary to become a coach.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact:

Tim Flynn
212-661-4327
tflynn@nyso.org

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VOLUNTEER INTEREST FORM

Name: _____

Age (if under 16): _____

All volunteers must be at least 13. Volunteers aged 13-15 must be accompanied by an adult

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

Email: _____

Best Way/Time to Contact: _____

**Type of Volunteer Interest:
(Refer to Volunteer
Opportunities Page)**

**Do you have any experience
with Special Olympics or
working with individuals with
intellectual disabilities?**

Please return this form to Tim Flynn, Senior Director of Program, at your earliest convenience.

Email: tflynn@nyso.org **Fax:** 631-479-2482

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