



Athlete Leadership University Registration Information

Friday, August 25th – Sunday, August 26th at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center and courses offered are Athlete Representative I and Global Messenger I.

The Special Olympics athlete is capable of pursuing leadership opportunities beyond competition. All athletes have the ability to become an Athlete Representative and Global Messenger.

Athlete Leadership University will model a typical university progression. PLEDGE is required for all majors (i.e., Governance and Communications are “majors”). When PLEDGE is completed, the course does not need to be repeated for another major. If your Athlete Leadership University attendees have not yet completed PLEDGE, they should be attending on Saturday morning from 12:00-1:20 PM

Most classes will have an introductory session and an advanced session. While some athletes may only take one course at this, we encourage all Athlete Leaders to take multiple sessions to receive their Athlete Leadership University diploma. The better we equip athletes to represent themselves and their organization, the more successful they will be.

To meet accreditation criteria, each local program must have at least one **trained and active Athlete Representative and Global Messenger**. However, we all believe providing Athlete Leadership training is much more – it is critical to their future as leaders to guide our future at all levels.

All Athlete Leadership University attendees require a mentor to attend. The cost for each local program will be \$150.00 per team (1 athlete and 1 mentor) to help offset the costs of training. Local programs will be billed at the completion of the Athlete Leadership University session. If a local program cancels within three weeks of the event, they will still be billed.

Registration Form Link (*It is highly recommended to fill out this registration form in Google Chrome*):

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScLLqn2v8kyM0zDuz-oqxrPBhWnBVjMoeMVLt6mI9HSLqtHtA/viewform?c=0&w=1>

Registration Form Deadline: Friday, July 28th at 5:00 PM (available on a first come, first serve basis)

Important Notice: This session is also taking place right before the start of SOPA’s annual Leadership Conference. All attendees are encouraged to stay for Leadership Conference but please note however that registration for Leadership Conference will be managed separately.

Tentative Schedule:

Friday, August 25th	
Registration	9:30-10:30 AM
PLEDGE	12:00-1:30 PM
Mentor Training	1:30-2:00 PM
Athlete Representative I	1:30-7:00 PM
Global Messenger I	
Dinner	7:00-8:00 PM
Athlete Representative I	8:00-9:00 PM
Global Messenger I	
Saturday, August 26th	
Breakfast	7:00-8:00 AM
Athlete Representative I	8:00-9:30 AM
Global Messenger I	
Closing Session	9:30-10:30 AM

Attire:

- Business casual for classroom time.
 - Example: polo shirt with khakis.
- Global Messengers should consider their appearance for the final speech presentation (Saturday, August 26th).
- Athletic clothing and sneakers encouraged for team building.

Lodging Accommodations:

- All lodging will take place at Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center.
 - Address: 215 Innovation Blvd, State College, PA 16803
- Lodging will be assigned by SOPA with the Housing Policy strictly adhered to.
- If you have housing requests such as early arrival or preferred roommate, please indicate within the Registration Form. These requests are not guaranteed...
- You will receive confirmation of lodging assignment at the close of Registration.

Meal Accommodations:

- All meals will take place at Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center.
- If you have dietary requests, such as gluten free or vegetarian, please indicate within the Registration Form. These requests are not guaranteed...
- Saturday: dinner.
- Sunday: breakfast.

Course Descriptions:

- All courses will take place at Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center.
- **PLEDGE:** This is a broad introduction to Athlete Leadership and Athlete Leadership University.

**Personal
Leadership
Education
Development
Growth
Empowerment**

- **Mentor:** Whether you're an experienced mentor or this is your first time mentoring an Athlete Leader, this training will help you learn and understand your role in helping athletes reach their full potential as a leader within your Local Program and SOPA.
- **Governance Major-Athlete Representative I:** Introduction to governance. This curriculum teaches athletes how to serve on committees and how to solve problems with the help of their mentor, local management team, SOPA Staff and their fellow athletes.
- **Communication Major- Global Messenger I:** Introduction to communication. This curriculum teaches athletes how to write, practice and deliver a speech in front of an audience.
- **Closing Session:** Presentation on important SOPA information, interviews and presentation of gifts and certificates.

Athlete Requirements:

- 16 years of age or older for Global Messenger.
- 18 years of age or older for Athlete Representative.

- Year round involvement with local program and SOPA.
- Responsible individuals with good behavior.
- Ability to communicate interpersonally with local management team, other athletes, mentors and SOPA.
- Ability to be attentive during instruction.
- Represent SOPA professionally in manner and appearance.

Mentor Requirements:

- 18 years of age or older.
- Year round involvement with local program and SOPA.
- Class A Registered Volunteer with valid background checks, general orientation and protective behaviors training.
- Parents are acceptable mentors, please keep in mind this is a growing experience for athletes. We do not want the athlete to hold back or to feel limited while exercising independence with a parent’s presence.
- Good role model who is patient and supportive.
- Allow the athlete to take the lead, develop and grow.
- Represent SOPA professionally in manner and appearance.
- Ability to travel and to provide athlete with transportation.
- Represent SOPA professionally in manner and appearance.

If you have questions please contact:

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